PRICE ONE PENNY.

The Sydney Morning Herald.

PRICE 1d.

No. 22,135. | Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper. | SYDNEY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1908.

SUMMARY.

Senor Gomez, Acting President of Venezuela, asks for a settlement of the disputes with the United States.

Holland has suspended her naval demonstrations against Venezuela.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst and other women franchise agitators who were released from prison received an ovation.

Breakfast was provided, after which they paraded through London in waggonettes.

The London "Sportsman" advises the Australian Board of Control to go warily, and not be too grasping.

If the board cause the defection of many leading players, it adds, the English Board of Control will be quite justified in eliminating its programme.

Mr. Lemieux, Postmaster-General of Canada, says he is confident that cheaper Atlantic telegrams are near at hand.

He predicts that the cable companies will reduce their charges to avoid the construction of the Anglo-Canadian Government cable.

Sir Thomas Lipton has abandoned his America Cup challenge next year, owing to the restrictions imposed by the New York Yacht Club.

The Supreme Court of Missouri has ousted the subsidiary companies of the Standard Oil Company of America from the State.

It has dissolved the Waters, Pierce Oil, and St. Louis companies, and has fined each company $5,000 dollars (£1,000).

President Roosevelt has initiated an investigation into the Pittsburg municipal scandals.

Pittsburg councillors have been accused of conspiring to secure by bribery the passage of certain ordinances connected with the issue of municipal bonds.

President Roosevelt has enlarged the scope of the secret service by merging all detective agencies into a bureau of criminal investigation.

The Herald-square Theatre, Broadway, New York, has been destroyed by fire. The audience and the actors had a narrow escape.

Golden wreaths have been stolen from the graves of two Kings in Roskilde Cathedral, the burial-place of the Royal family of Denmark.

Thieves also stole the silver cross which Queen Alexandra laid on the tombs of her parents.

It is semi-officially hinted in Vienna that Austria-Hungary will never compensate Turkey for the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Prime Minister has received no official intimation of the retirement of Senator Mulcahy from the Postal Commission.

Opinions in Federal political circles are strongly with Senator Mulcahy in the action he has taken.

Sir John Quick predicts important developments and stormy times in the Federal Parliament between April and June next.

There will be, he says, a revival in politics, and the problems confronting Australia would receive wide discussion.

In connection with the Armidale tragedy Agnes O'Leary was brought before the police court yesterday.

As the police had no further evidence to bring forward the police magistrate discharged her from custody.

The railway surveyors are pushing on with the work on the North Coast line north of Taree. Several important deviations are being inquired into.

The Minister for Public Instruction has approved of plans being prepared for the erection of a technical college at Granville.

The Hospital for Consumptives, situated between Helensburgh and Waterfall, will be ready for occupation in January.

During the year £266,934 has been allocated to shire and municipal councils for local government purposes.

This amount is exclusive of statutory endowments paid to certain municipalities by the Treasurer.

The Butchers' Retail Wages Board has made its award in regard to the rates of wages and conditions of labour governing the trade.

The award provides for a 59 hours' working week, with half a day off on Wednesdays.

The award remains in operation for two years, commencing from January 4.

The Minister for Works, speaking at Port Macquarie, said the North Coast railway would be across the Hastings River before five years.

He advised the people of Port Macquarie to make the town attractive, as it was destined to be the sanatorium of the North Coast.

The Department of Agriculture is taking drastic measures to stamp out fruit diseases, and pests in this State.

The inspectors have been instructed to be extremely strict in the examination of imported fruit.

The tug Undaunted left Port Macquarie on Wednesday night for Taree with the dredger Samson in tow.

When off Manning Heads the Samson opened up and sank. Captains Innes and French had a narrow escape from drowning.

Watt and Mathie's sawmill at Tomerong was destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. The property was insured.

Charles Blomgren, a Sydney musician, has been drowned while boating on the River Avon at Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr. Augustus James Rose, formerly an inspector in the Railway Department, died at Homebush during the week.

He was one of the oldest employees in the railways, having joined the service in 1858.

During a thunderstorm at Parkes a number of sheep belonging to Mr. W. Moss, of Millview, were killed by lightning.

The animals had taken refuge from the rain under a small pine tree, which was struck by the lightning.

A butcher at Hindmarsh, Adelaide, obtained a verdict for £100 from the local board of health for libel.

The alleged libel was contained in statements published by the board reflecting upon the quality of the meat exposed for sale by plaintiff.

Mount Gambier is suffering from a plague of caterpillars, which are creating havoc among the potato crops and lucerne.

A movement has been initiated in Queensland for the formation of a Chamber of Agricultural Societies.

The combined unions at Broken Hill have decided not to accept the reduced wages offered by the Proprietary Company.

Trouble may be expected from January 1.

Diverse views are held in Sydney in regard to the reduced railway goods rates.

It is asserted by the head of a leading firm that the farmers will not benefit by the reductions.

Another batch of Chinese stowaways were discovered yesterday on board the steamer Courtfield, from Hongkong and Manila.

A young man named Harry Watson was shot dead near Condobolin while playing with a revolver.

He placed the weapon in his mouth, not knowing that it was loaded, and pulled the trigger.

The revolver went off, the bullet passing out behind the left ear. Death was almost instantaneous.

Mr. L. A. B. Wade, engineer-in-chief for Water supply, has returned from South Africa.

The Bishop of Riverina was welcomed at Hay on his return from the Pan-Anglican Congress and the Lambeth Conference.

Dr. Anderson said he was hopeful that the congress would have a marked effect on national life.

The contractor for removing the old buildings at Parramatta known as the Cedars found a tin of sovereigns under the floor in one of the front rooms.

Operations in the mining market for the year were brought to a close yesterday morning with a listless feeling as regards speculation.

The Stock Exchange will remain closed until January 5.

Weather Forecast.—Thunderstorms still likely in the north-east and showers along the seaboard, otherwise fine, with moderate temperatures; southerly to easterly winds.

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Christmas Day! Call a truce then to our labours,
Let us feast with friends and neighbours,
And be merry as the custom of our caste."
—Kipling.

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TO ALL
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AND CUSTOMERS.

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MINA LOBATA, autumn flowering climber, 6d each.
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Antirrhinums, Carnations, Celosias, Asters, Cosmos, Klondyke, Salpiglossis, Amaranthus, 8d doz., 4s per 100.
Balsams, Cockscombs, Cosmos, Sunflower (small), Lobelia, Nasturtiums, Portulacca, Marigold, Zinnia, Dianthus, Globe Amaranth, 6d per doz, 4s per 100.

FOR KITCHEN GARDEN.
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THE SWAN, GOLD MOUNTED, 16/6, 18/6, 27/6, 30/, 32/6, 37/6, 55/, 70/.
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FOR MARSEILLES, PLYMOUTH, AND LONDON, FIRST AND SECOND SALOON ONLY.

Steamer.	Tons.	Commander.	Leave Sydney, Noon.	Leave Melb., 1 p.m.	Leave Adel., 6 p.m.
INDIA	8,000	Vibert	Jan. 2	Jan. 5	Jan. 7
VICTORIA	8,500	Haddock	Jan. 16	Jan. 19	Jan. 21
MOREA	11,000	Broun	Jan. 30	Feb. 2	Feb. 4
*MOOLTAN	10,000	Henning	Feb. 13	Feb. 16	Feb. 18
*CHINA	8,000	Street	Feb. 24	Mar. 2	Mar. 4
*MOLDAVIA	10,000	Gordon	Mar. 10	Mar. 16	Mar. 18
†*MALWA	11,000	—	Mar. 24	Mar. 30	April 1
*MONGOLIA	10,000	Preston	April 7	April 13	April 15
*MARMORA	16,500	Weston	April 21	April 27	April 29

* Calling at Hobart. † Calling at Bombay.
‡ Fitted with Laundry.
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The S.S. PERSHAWUR will be despatched for Dunkirk (Direct), London, and Continental Ports, via Suez Canal,
16th JANUARY, 1909,
Taking General and Refrigerated Cargo.
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R. TRELAWNY, Superintendent in Australia, 62 Pitt-street; or Messrs. B. A. MADDEN and COMPANY, 19 Bridge-street.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD. N.D.L.
IMPERIAL MAIL STEAMSHIPS.
TO LONDON AND THE CONTINENT,
VIA COLOMBO, SUEZ, NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP, AND BREMEN,
Calling at Algiers.

Steamers.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney, 5.30 p.m.
*ROON	8,622	O. Pahnke	Dec. 26
*YORCK	9,000	J. Randermann	Jan. 23
*FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE	10,795	H. Bleseker	Feb. 20
*BREMEN	11,570	C. von Borell	Mar. 20
*ROON	8,622	O. Pahnke	April 17
*SEYDLITZ	8,000	A. Ahlborn	May 15

* Twin-screw Steamer.
Passage Money to London, £15 to £82 10s.
Passage Money, return, £27 to £123 4s.
ROUND THE WORLD, FROM £143.
REDUCED RATES THROUGH TO NEW YORK.
SPECIAL RETURN TICKETS TO COLOMBO.
From Melbourne 5 days later. From Adelaide 9 days later.

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CONNECTING AT HONGKONG with the FORTNIGHTLY EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE of the N.D.L. from Japan and China to Europe; also with the Pacific Lines, VIA SAN FRANCISCO and VANCOUVER, to EUROPE.
Passing some of the MOST PICTURESQUE and BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS in the Pacific, making a TRULY DELIGHTFUL and INTERESTING VOYAGE.

Steamer.	Sydney.	Brisbane.
MANILA	Jan. 12	Jan. 14
PRINZ WALDEMAR (Twin-screw)	Feb. 9	Feb. 11
PRINZ SIGISMUND (Twin-screw)	Mar. 9	Mar. 11

Linen washed on board. English spoken.
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REGULAR N.D.L. FAST CARGO SERVICE.
The Fast Steamer LOTHRINGEN, Capt. R. Dirks, will sail on or about DECEMBER 31st, for Antwerp, Bremen, and Hamburg, via Suez Canal.
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PASSAGES BOOKED TO LONDON, VIA PARIS.

Steamers.	Sydney, noon.	Melb., 1 p.m.	Adel. 1 p.m.
AUSTRALIEN	Dec. 28	Dec. 31	Jan. 2
YARRA	Jan. 25	Jan. 28	Jan. 30
VILLE DE LA CIOTAT	Feb. 22	Feb. 25	Feb. 27
ARMAND BEHIC	Mar. 22	Mar. 25	Mar. 27

FARES TO MARSEILLES: Single, £34 4s to £78 2s; Return, £62 8s to £146 12s, including table wines. English spoken on board.
EXCURSION RETURN TICKETS TO COLOMBO, available 74 days, issued at greatly reduced rates. Return coupon interchangeable with all MAIL COMPANIES.
FREMANTLE:—Saloon, £8 to £11, Return £13 to £16 10s; Third-class, £5 5s.
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MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.
STEAM TO NOUMEA.
The F.M.S. YARRA will leave the M.M. WHARF, MILLER'S POINT, on THURSDAY, the 31st inst, at 10 a.m., taking PASSENGERS and CARGO.
NO CARGO RECEIVED ON DAY OF SAILING.
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LUND'S BLUE ANCHOR LINE.
TO NATAL (DURBAN), CAPETOWN, AND LONDON, VIA MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE.
The Fine Steamer of the Line will leave Sydney on the undermentioned dates, at noon:

Steamer.	Tons.	Captain.	Sails.
*WARATAH	10,000	J. E. Ilbery	Jan. 9
*COMMONWEALTH	6,611	J. T. Rine	Feb. 6
WAKOOL	5,013	F. W. Hanson	March 6

* New Steamer. † Twin-screw Steamer.
FIRST SALOON ACCOMMODATION.
Largest and Best-appointed Cabins in the Trade.
THIRD-CLASS CABINS fitted with every comfort.
FARES:—London: First Saloon, £57.
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Third-class, 12, 13, and 14 Guineas.
Round-the-World Tickets from £126 10s.
RETURN AND STOP-OVER TICKETS INTERCHANGEABLE WITH THE ABERDEEN LINE STEAMERS.
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SPECIAL THROUGH RATES VIA AMERICA, SUEZ CANAL, OR TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, THROUGH BOOKINGS TO ALL PARTS OF THE EAST, CANADA, AND EUROPE.

Steamer.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney.
ALDENHAM	4500	P. T. Heinz	Feb. 13
EMPIRE	4500	P. T. Heinz	Feb. 13
EASTERN	3600	W. G. M'Arthur	Mar. 15
ALDENHAM	4000	St. John George	Apl. 19

Saloon Accommodation amidships. Bathrooms, cool, two-berth cabins on the upper deck, and fitted with electric fans. Surgeon and Stewardess carried.
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OF FAST PASSENGER STEAMERS,
FROM KING-STREET WHARVES.

FOR MELBOURNE, GEELONG, } COOMA, 5 p.m., THURSDAY, December 31. PEREGRINE, 2 p.m., SATURDAY, January 9.
FOR ADELAIDE, FREMANTLE (Taking Cargo for S.A., Gulf Ports, Perth, Hopetoun, and all other W.A. Ports), GERALDTON, } BURRUMBEET, 2 p.m., TUESDAY, January 26.
FOR BRISBANE (Transhipping at Brisbane for Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Gladstone), ROCKHAMPTON (Wharf), } ALLINGA, 5 p.m., TUESDAY, December 29. BURWAH, 5 p.m., TUESDAY, January 5. Cargo only.
FOR BRISBANE (Transhipping at Brisbane for Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Gladstone), ROCKHAMPTON, MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE (Transhipping at Townsville for Lucinda Point, Cardwell, Mourilyan, Geraldton, Cairns, Port Douglas), } PEREGRINE, 2 p.m., TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, December 26. BOMBALA, 2 p.m., SATURDAY, January 2. COOMA, 2 p.m., SATURDAY, January 9.

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TWEED RIVER (all ports).—DUROBY, WEDNESDAY, 9 p.m.
LANGLEY BROS., Baltic Wharf, Market-street.

PORT MACQUARIE, HASTINGS and WILSON RIVERS.—S.S. WAUCHOPE, MONDAY, 1 p.m. GEORGE McARTHUR, Secretary. Baltic Wharf, foot of Market-street. Tel., 91 City.

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For Plymouth and London, via Naples and Marseilles, calling at Fremantle (W.A.), Colombo, Transhipping to all Indian Ports and Suez Canal Ports.

R.M.S.	Tons.	Commander.	Sydney, 3 p.m.	Melb., 1 p.m.	Adel., 1 p.m.
†*OMRAH	8,282	Symons	Dec. 26 Noon.	Dec. 29	Dec. 31
OROTAVA	5,980	Plunkett	Jan. 9	Jan. 12	Jan. 14
ORMUZ	6,463	Shelford	Jan. 23	Jan. 26	Jan. 28
ORIENT	8,458	Staunton	Feb. 6	Feb. 9	Feb. 11
OROYA	9,387	Lawe	Feb. 20	Feb. 23	Feb. 25
*ORTONA	8,000	Collins	Mar. 3	Mar. 9	Mar. 11
*ORONTES	9,023	Buthven	Mar. 17	Mar. 23	Mar. 25
*bARTHIAS	12,002	Jenks	Mar. 31	April 6	April 8
*bOMRAH	8,282	Symons	April 14	April 20	April 22

* Twin Screw. b Calling at Hobart.
4 Leaving Sydney at 3 p.m.
SALOON: Single, £41 16s 10d to £82 10s; Return, £69 6s and £123 4s. Return Tickets available for Two Years, 3rd Class (liberal dietary scale), £17. Third, £5 5s.
FREMANTLE: Saloon, £5 5s to £11; Third, £3 3s.
THROUGH FARES TO NEW YORK QUOTED.

PLEASURE TRIPS TO BRISBANE.

Steamer.	Leave Sydney.	Arr. Brisbane.	Leave Brisbane.	Arr. Sydney.
OROTAVA	Dec. 29	Dec. 31	Jan. 2	Jan. 4
ORMUZ	Jan. 12	Jan. 14	Jan. 16	Jan. 18

Ordinary First-class Rail Return Tickets from Brisbane are available for return by these Steamers.

HOLIDAY TRIPS TO CEYLON.
Fares, including Rail and Hotel Expenses, quoted.
DAVID ANDERSON, Martin-place (opp. G.P.O.).

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TO VANCOUVER, VIA FIJI AND HONOLULU; THENCE BY RAIL TO ANY PART OF CANADA OR UNITED STATES.
THE BEST ROUTE TO EUROPE.

Steamer.	Tons.	From Sydney.	From Brisbane.	Arr. Vancouver.
MOANA	4000	Jan. 18	Jan. 20	Feb. 11
†*MAKURA	8100	Feb. 15	Feb. 17	Mar. 10
AORANGI	4300	Mar. 15	Mar. 17	Apl. 8
*MARAMA	6500	Apl. 12	Apl. 14	May 5
†*MAKURA	8100	May 10	May 12	June 2

† New Steamer. * Twin-screw Steamer.
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Steamers are despatched as follows, weather and other circumstances permitting, from the Company's Wharves, Margaret and Sussex streets. Cargo will not be received within two hours of steamer's sailing.
NEW ZEALAND.
For AUCKLAND, GISBORNE, NAPIER, WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, and DUNEDIN (transhipping to outports)—
MOKOIA, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 12 noon.
MANUKA (Twin Screw), WEDNESDAY, January 13.
For WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN, BLUFF, HOBART, and MELBOURNE (transhipping to outports)—
WARRIMOO, THIS NIGHT, FRIDAY, December 25, at midnight.
MARAMA (Twin Screw), SATURDAY, January 2.
TASMANIA.
For HOBART DIRECT—
PALOONA, MONDAY, January 4, 1 p.m., and 14.
From HOBART—
PALOONA, December 29, January 9, 19.
For LAUNCESTON, via EDEN—
WAKATIPU, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 11 a.m., and January 13.
From LAUNCESTON—
WAKATIPU, WEDNESDAY, January 7, and 20.
For STRAHAN, REGATTA POINT, DEVONPORT, BURNIE, and STANLEY—
KARITANE, MONDAY, December 28, at noon (Cargo only), from Druitt-street Wharf.
SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.
For FIJI (Lautoka, Suva, Levuka), SAMOA (Apia), TONGA (Vavau, Haapai, Nukualofa), thence to AUCKLAND—
ATUA (Twin-screw), TUESDAY, January 5.
For TONGA (Nukualofa, Haapai, Vavau), SAMOA (Apia), FIJI, thence to SYDNEY—
TOFUA (Twin-screw), from AUCKLAND, TUESDAY, January 5.
SAN FRANCISCO AND EASTERN PACIFIC SERVICE.
FROM WELLINGTON.
For RAROTONGA, TAHITI, and SAN FRANCISCO—
MANAPOURI, January 3, transhipping to MARIPOSA at Papeete. (Connecting steamer from Sydney, MARAMA, December 25.
FROM AUCKLAND.
For RAROTONGA and TAHITI ONLY—
HAURORO, TUESDAY, January 19.
Connecting Steamer from Sydney: MANUKA, January 12.
FROM MELBOURNE.
For NEW ZEALAND PORTS—
MOERAKI (Twin Screw), TUESDAY, December 29, at 5 p.m.
For LAUNCESTON—
LOONGANA, 4 p.m., December 25, 28, 30; January 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13.
From LAUNCESTON—
LOONGANA, December 26, 29, 31, January 2, 5, 7, 9, 12.
For BURNIE and DEVONPORT—
OONAH, December 29; January 1.
For STRAHAN—
WAINUI, December 28, January 2.
Tickets available for stop-over or return by Huddart, Parker, and Co.'s steamers.
For leaflets and full particulars apply to UNION STEAM SHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, Limited,
FREDK. W. JACKSON, Manager.
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HUDDART, PARKER LINE.
THE FAVOURITE PASSENGER SERVICE.
NEW ZEALAND.
AUCKLAND, GISBORNE, NAPIER, WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN (Transhipping to outports). } WIMMERA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, noon.
WELLINGTON, LYTTELTON, DUNEDIN and BLUFF. HOBART and MELBOURNE (Transhipping to outports). } VICTORIA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, noon.
} ULIMAROA, 6000 Tons, Twin Screw, SATURDAY, January 9, 2 p.m.
From MELBOURNE, via HOBART and BLUFF—ULIMAROA, WEDNESDAY, January 27.
TASMANIA.
HOBART—
WESTRALIA, MONDAY, December 28, noon; and January 9, 19, 29.
From HOBART—
WESTRALIA, January 4, 14, 25.
LAUNCESTON—
From MELBOURNE—LOONGANA (Turbine Yacht), MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and FRIDAY.
MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, (transhipping to Port Pirie), ALBANY, FREMANTLE (Transhipping to Perth, North-west Ports, Geraldton). } RIVERINA, 5000 Tons, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2 p.m. Carrying first and second Saloon and Steerage Passengers.
New Zealand Tickets for stop-over and return by Union Company's steamers, or vice versa.
Return portions of coastal tickets available by all Interstate Companies. Particulars on application.
Cargo will not be received within two hours of steamer's sailing.
For particulars apply
HUDDART, PARKER, and CO. PROPRIETARY, Ltd. Offices: Exchange Corner, 61 Pitt-street.
Wharves: Margaret and Sussex streets.

THE ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.
EXPRESS LINE OF PASSENGER STEAMERS FROM GRAFTON WHARF.
FOR MELBOURNE, } MARLOO, 2nd Jan., 10 a.m. INNAMINCKA, 8th January.
FOR MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, ALBANY, FREMANTLE. } PILBARRA, WEDNESDAY, December 30, at 2 p.m. Through to Geraldton, omitting Albany. GRANTALA, SATURDAY, January 2, at 1 p.m. (Without Transhipment).
FOR GERALDTON, and all North-west Ports. } BULLARRA (From Fremantle) JANUARY 12th.
Above Steamers take Cargo for transhipment to Port Pirie, Wallaroo, Augusta, and other S.A. ports; also for Bunbury, Perth, Geraldton, and North-west ports.
BRISBANE MACKAY, TOWNSVILLE, CAIRNS (transhipping to all other Queensland ports). } YONGALA, SATURDAY, December 26, at 5 p.m. No Cargo received on Day of Sailing. WOLLOWRA, JANUARY 2. MARLOO, JANUARY 9.
LOWEST FARES AND FREIGHTS.
SALOON PASSAGE TICKETS are interchangeable after the first port of call with the other interstate Companies on all services, subject to conditions which can be ascertained on application at the Company's office.
G. S. YUILL and CO., Limited, Agents, 9 Bridge-street.

N. K. CAIN'S COASTAL CO-OPERATIVE STEAMSHIP COMPANY, Limited.
PORT MACQUARIE, HASTINGS and WILSON RIVERS.—S.S. WAUCHOPE, MONDAY, 1 p.m. GEORGE McARTHUR, Secretary.
Baltic Wharf, foot of Market-street. Tel., 91 City.

BURNS PHILP AND CO., LTD.
SHIPPING AGENTS.
AUSN. CO., LTD.,
ROYAL MAIL COASTAL SERVICE.
THE POPULAR PASSENGER LINE.
FROM THE LIME-STREET WHARVES—
FOR MELBOURNE, } KANOWNA, TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, noon, December 26. ARAWATTA, TUESDAY, Noon, December 29. WYREEMA (New Steamer, Twin Screw, 6237 tons), TUESDAY, 5 p.m., January 5.
MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, Transhipping to Port Pirie, ALBANY, FREMANTLE, Transhipping to Perth, Geraldton, and North-west Ports. } KANOWNA (Without Transhipment), TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, noon, December 26. KYARRA, (Without Transhipment), SATURDAY, noon, January 9. Each 7000 Tons, Twin Screw, Deck Cabins. Carrying First and Second Saloon and Steerage Passengers. Inspection invited. Early application for berths necessary.
BRISBANE, *MARYBOROUGH, *BUNDABERG, *GLADSTONE, ROCKHAMPTON, TOWNSVILLE (Jetty and Town Wharfs). } **MOIRA (Cargo only), TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, noon, December 26. WYANDRA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., December 29. **KOMURA (Cargo Only), SATURDAY, Noon, January 2.
BRISBANE, ROCKHAMPTON, MACKAY, BOWEN, TOWNSVILLE (Town Wharf) TOWNSVILLE (Jetty Wharf), †LUCINDA, †GERALDTON, †MOURILYAN CAIRNS, PORT DOUGLAS, COOKTOWN. } WYANDRA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., December 29. ARAWATTA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., January 5. WYREEMA (New Steamer, Twin Screw, 6237 Tons), TUESDAY, 5 p.m., Jan. 12. WODONGA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., January 19.
THURSDAY ISLAND NORMANTON, BURKETOWN, } ARAWATTA, TUESDAY, 7 p.m., January 5 (Transhipping at Brisbane).
LAUTOKA, SUVA, LEVUKA, } FIJI SUVA, WEDNESDAY, 6 p.m., January 20.
* TRANSHIPPING AT BRISBANE.
** THROUGH SERVICE TO ROCKHAMPTON, TRANSHIPPING AT BRISBANE FOR TOWNSVILLE.
† TRANSHIPPING AT TOWNSVILLE.
LOWEST CURRENT FARES AND FREIGHTS.
After first port Saloon Tickets are interchangeable under certain conditions with all Interstate Companies in the Queensland and Western trades, to be ascertained on application to
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Limited, Agents, 10 Bridge-street.

A. U. S. N. CO., LTD.
BOXING DAY.
NOTICE.—NO CARGO will be RECEIVED or DELIVERED at the A.U.S.N. Co.'s Wharf, on SATURDAY, 26th inst., after 10 a.m.
BURNS, PHILP and COMPANY, Ltd., Agents.

SYDNEY, JAVA, SINGAPORE.
MONTHLY SERVICE,
Under Contract with the Government of New South Wales,
Via QUEENSLAND PORTS and PORT DARWIN, to SOURABAYA, SAMARANG, BATAVIA, AND SINGAPORE.
S.S. GUTHRIE, DECEMBER 31.
S.S. AIRLIE, FEBRUARY 1.
LOWEST PASSENGER RATES.
ENGLAND, via SINGAPORE and CALCUTTA, or CHINA, JAPAN, and SAN FRANCISCO, or VANCOUVER.
ROUND-THE-WORLD TOURS.
EXCURSIONS
to
JAVA, THE GARDEN OF THE EAST.
RETURN FARE, £36.
TIME OCCUPIED FOR ROUND VOYAGE, 50 DAYS, ALLOWING 10 DAYS IN JAVA.
For further particulars apply to
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd.

BURNS PHILP LINE.
(Under Commonwealth Mail Contract.)
FROM FEDERAL WHARF, for
LORD HOWE ISLAND, NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW HEBRIDES, BANKS GROUP. } S.S. TAMBO, THURS., DEC. 31, NOON.
Cargo received 28th, 29th, and 30th inst. ONLY.
GILBERT ISLANDS, ELLICE ISLANDS, MARSHALL ISLANDS (Transhipping at Tarawa). } S.S. MUNIARA, TUES., JAN. 5, 4 P.M.
Cargo received January 4th ONLY.
SOLOMON ISLANDS, SHORTLAND ISLANDS, PAPUA. } S.S. MORESBY, FRIDAY, JAN. 8, NOON.
Cargo received January 6th and 7th ONLY.
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd., 10 Bridge-street, Sydney.

N. Y. K.
(NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA).
IMPERIAL JAPANESE MAIL LINE.
EXPRESS MAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICE to MANILA, CHINA, AND JAPAN, calling at
BRISBANE, TOWNSVILLE, and THURSDAY ISLAND, with connections at Hongkong to Europe, via Suez, also to Shanghai and America. Connecting at Nagasaki to North China, Korea, and Vladivostock.
Steamers leaving Sydney as under:—

Steamer.	Tons.	Commander.	Noon.
*YAWATA MARU (Omitting Nagasaki)	4000	T. Sekine	Dec. 29
NIKKO MARU	6000	R. Swain	Jan. 27
KUMANO MARU	5000	T. Mathieson	Feb. 24

Saloon amidships. Two berths only. Each cabin fitted with electric fans. Qualified surgeon carried. Linen washed on board at moderate prices.
Through First and Second Saloon Passengers will be served at the option of travelling between Nagasaki and Yokohama, and vice versa, by Railway, thus economising time and breaking the sea journey.
For full particulars apply to
BURNS, PHILP, and CO., Ltd., Managing Agents.

BRISBANE.—CHAS. O'REILLY (est. 1866), Customs, Forwarding, Carrier, and General Agent, Felix-st.

THE NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER RIVER S.S. CO., LTD.
STEAM TO AND FROM NEWCASTLE AND SYDNEY.
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S TIME TABLE.
1908-1909.

Day.	Date.	From Sydney.	From Newcastle.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1908.

INTERSTATE FARES.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued at certain New South Wales Stations to the principal QUEENSLAND, VICTORIAN, and SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATIONS, until FRIDAY, January 1.

These tickets will be available for return for 3 months from date of issue, but tickets issued to Melbourne and other Victorian stations will not be available by the Express Trains except on payment of the difference between the Holiday Excursion and Ordinary rates. The journey may be broken for one month going, and during the currency of ticket on return.

CHEAP EXCURSION TRAINS.

In addition to the usual Cheap Excursion Tickets issued on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, as shown in the Penny Time Table Book, similar tickets at 2d per mile First-class Return (minimum 2s) and 1d per mile Second-class Return (minimum 1s) will be issued by the undermentioned down trains to and from all stations at which the trains are timed to call:

CHEAP TRAINS FROM SYDNEY.

NORTHERN LINE.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY).—7.35 a.m. to Newcastle.
SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—7.35 a.m. to Newcastle.

WESTERN LINE.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY).—7.52 a.m. to Eskbank; 8.28 a.m. to Mt. Victoria (to stations Penrith to Hazelbrook, inclusive).
SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—8.10 a.m. to Eskbank (to Lawson and stations west thereof); 6.13 p.m. to Mt. Victoria.

SOUTHERN LINE.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY).—8.0 a.m. to Goulburn; 8.55 a.m. to Camden (to stations on the Camden line only).

ILLAWARRA LINE.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY).—7.30 a.m. to Nowra; 7.38 a.m. to Wollongong.
SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—7.8 and 7.38 a.m. to Wollongong; 7.30 a.m. to Nowra. The 8.5 a.m. ordinary train, Sydney to Wollongong, will not run on Saturday, Dec. 26, the Cheap Tickets being issued by special train leaving Sydney at 8.27 a.m. in lieu thereof.

CHEAP TICKETS at the Rate of Single Fare and a Quarter for the Double Journey (minimum 2s First Class and 1s Second Class) will be issued by the undermentioned trains to Sydney, and also to and from all Stations at which the trains are timed to call.

Exceptions.—By the trains leaving West Maitland for Sydney at 5.10 a.m. and 5.45 a.m., and leaving Newcastle for Sydney at 5.55 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, fares ordinarily charged on Fridays and Saturdays (by trains, and to and from the stations, specified on page 14 of Penny Time-table Book) will apply. The fares to and from other stations to be at the rate of Single Fare and a Quarter for the Double Journey—minimum fares, 2s First-class, and 1s Second-class.

CHEAP TRAINS TO SYDNEY.

NORTHERN LINE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—6.15 a.m. from Mt. Victoria (from Emu Plains and Stations West thereof).

SOUTHERN LINE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—4.25 a.m. from Goulburn; 6.22 a.m. from Moss Vale.

ILLAWARRA LINE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 26.—4.35 a.m. from Nowra; 6.35 a.m. from Wollongong.

These Tickets will be available for return within one calendar month from date of issue.

Tickets issued in the Down direction (from Sydney and intermediate Stations) will be available for return by any train.

Tickets issued to Sydney and other Stations in the Up direction will not be available for return by the Melbourne Express or Mail train.

SPECIAL MOUNTAIN SERVICE.

CHEAP TICKETS at single fare for the double journey will be issued by Special Train leaving Eskbank for Katoomba at 8.40 a.m., and Katoomba for Eskbank at 6.0 p.m. on SATURDAY, December 26, to and from all stations at which the trains are timed to call, available for return for ten days from date of issue.

EXCURSIONS TO THE HAWKESBURY RIVER.

Trains will leave Sydney TO-DAY (FRIDAY) at 9.10 a.m.; and SATURDAY, Dec. 26, at 9.10 a.m. and 9.18 a.m., connecting train from Milson's Point at 8.50 a.m.

The River Trip will occupy about five hours.

Return Fares from Sydney and Suburban Stations:—6s First-class, 4s Second-class.

Light Refreshments obtainable on Steamer.

EXCURSION TO THE NEPEAN RIVER (PENRITH).

Trains will leave Sydney for Penrith TO-DAY (FRIDAY), at 8.28 a.m., and on SATURDAY, Dec. 26, at 8.10 a.m., 8.28 a.m., and 1.25 p.m.

Return Fares from Sydney (including Rail, Coach, and Steamer):—6s 6d First-class, and 4s Second-class.

Light Refreshments obtainable at Landing-place on river.

COMO AND NATIONAL PARK.

On DECEMBER 25 and 26 the Maximum Return Fares from Sydney, Redfern, and intermediate Illawarra Suburban Stations (including Belmore Line), to Mortdale, Oatley, Como, Sutherland, Loftus, and National Park, will not exceed 1s 6d First-class, and 1s Second-class. Available for return on day of issue only.

ADDITIONAL ALTERED TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS.

In addition to the Ordinary Train Service, and the Cheap Trains shown above, Special Country Trains will leave Sydney on:—

DEC. 25.—9.10 a.m. for Gosford.
DEC. 26.—9.10 a.m. for Gosford; 9.18 a.m. for Hawkesbury; 6.0 p.m. for Newcastle; 11.15 p.m. for West Maitland; 9.30 a.m. for Mount Victoria; 11.20 p.m. for Orange; 11.50 p.m. for Richmond; 11.25 p.m. for Goulburn; 9.30 a.m. to Scarborough; 9.33 a.m. for Kiama; 6.50 p.m. for Wollongong; 11.50 p.m. for Nowra.

On DEC. 26, passengers for Blacktown and Stations on the Richmond Line will not be conveyed by train leaving Sydney at 11.28 p.m., but must travel by Special leaving Sydney at 11.50 p.m.

On DEC. 26, the 2.25 p.m. Saturday Train, Sydney to Mount Victoria will not run.

On DEC. 25, the 4.55 p.m., Sydney to Mount Victoria, and 4.57 p.m., Sydney to Blacktown, will not run.

On DEC. 25, the 5.45 a.m. Local Train, Penrith to Blacktown, will leave Penrith at 6.40 a.m., and arrive Sydney at 8.17 a.m.

On DEC. 26, the 5.50 p.m. train from Blacktown to Sydney will not run.

On DEC. 25 and 26, the 6.20 a.m. train, Campbelltown to Sydney, will not run; owing to the withdrawal of this train, workmen's weekly tickets from stations Campbelltown to Casula, inclusive, will be available by the train leaving Campbelltown at 7.30 a.m.

On DEC. 26, the 8.5 a.m. Saturday train, Sydney to Wollongong, will not run. The 1.30 p.m. and 6.5 p.m., Scarborough to Wollongong, and the 5.0 p.m., Wollongong to Scarborough, will not run. The 2.55 p.m. Saturday train, Wollongong to Sydney, will not run.

On dates that the 7.34 p.m. Special Sydney to Newcastle runs, Passengers to Gosford, Wyong, and Newcastle, will not be conveyed by Mail Train, leaving Sydney at 7.15 p.m.

Passengers will not be conveyed to usual intermediate stations as far as Wallerawang, inclusive, or to the Mudgee Line, by Mail Train leaving Sydney at 7.30 p.m. on the dates that the 7.30 p.m. Special Train from Sydney runs.

On the dates that the 8.35 p.m. Special runs from Sydney to Goulburn, Passengers for intermediate stations and to the Cooma and Crookwell Lines, will not be conveyed by the Mail Train, leaving Sydney at 8.10 p.m.

PARTICULAR ATTENTION OF PASSENGERS RETURNING FROM THE CITY IS DIRECTED TO THE CONVENIENT SERVICE AFFORDED BY SPECIAL TRAINS LEAVING SYDNEY ON DECEMBER 26, AT 11.15 P.M., FOR NEWCASTLE AND WEST MAITLAND; 11.20 P.M. FOR ORANGE; 11.25 P.M. FOR GOULBURN; 11.50 P.M. FOR NOWRA.

CAMDEN BRANCH.

On DEC. 25 and 27, a Special Train, connecting with the 11.35 p.m. train (ex Sydney) will leave Campbelltown at 12.40 a.m., call at intermediate platforms where required, and be due Camden at 1.10 a.m.

ALTERED RUNNING OF SUBURBAN TRAINS.

On DEC. 25 and 26, several alterations and cancellations will be made in the running of the Ordinary Trains on the Main Suburban, Illawarra Suburban, Hornsby-Strathfield, Milson's Point, and Belmore Lines. On DEC. 26 (only) the Ordinary Train Service as between Sydney and Waterfall will be cancelled, and the Special Holiday Time-table shown on handbills substituted. Passengers are referred to handbills for full particulars.

CANCELLATION OF MORNING FUNERAL TRAIN.

SYDNEY TO ROOKWOOD MORTUARY, CHRISTMAS DAY.—TO-DAY (FRIDAY) the 9.28 a.m. Funeral Train, Sydney to Rookwood Mortuary Terminus, WILL BE CANCELLED.

For the convenience of passengers wishing to return to Sydney in time for business on MONDAY, December 28, trains will leave Nowra at 4.55 a.m., Goulburn at 4.35 a.m., Moss Vale at 6.22 a.m., Gosford at 6.36 a.m., and Mount Victoria at 6.15 a.m., 6.40 a.m., and 7.0 a.m.

For full particulars of holiday arrangements see handbills and posters.

CLOSING OF GOODS SHEDS.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY) and SATURDAY, DEC. 26, the Goods Sheds at Alexandria will be closed, but Darling Harbour and Sydney Goods Sheds will be open until 10 a.m. for the delivery of perishables only. The Goods Sheds at all other stations will be closed except for the receipt and delivery of perishables.

CLOSING OF CITY TICKETS AND PARCELS OFFICE.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY) the City Tickets and Parcels Office will be closed; but on SATURDAY, DEC. 26, will be open until 10 a.m.

By order,
(5b180) E. McLACHLAN, Secretary.

GOVERNMENT TRAMWAYS.

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25.

Workmen's Fares will be cancelled on all lines.

Weekday Timetables will be in force on all lines, with slight alterations in departure times of trams between 5 and 9 a.m., and 5 and 6.30 p.m.

Long Bay-La Perouse Trams will leave Circular Quay at 6.5, 6.47, 7.5, 8.3, 8.27, 8.38, 8.51 a.m., and every 12 minutes to 5.51, 6.15, 7.15, 8.15, 9.15, 10.15, 11.20 p.m.

Bondi Junction Line.—The Service via Pitt and Castlereagh streets will be cancelled.

By order,
(1-288) H. McLACHLAN, Secretary.

CENTRAL RAILWAY CAFE,
ON PLATFORM OF SYDNEY STATION.

3-COURSE DINNER, 1s.

AFTERNOON TEAS; Ices, Strawberries, Fruit, and Confectionery, Cakes, etc.
Tobacco and Cigars, Pipes, etc.
MEALS OBTAINABLE FROM 6 A.M. TILL 11.30 P.M.

OPEN SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

LARGEST, COOLEST, AND BEST APPOINTED REFRESHMENT ROOMS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.
P. HART, Lessee.

HOTELS.

AT GROSVENOR HOTEL, CHURCH-HILL, SYDNEY.—Cool, salubrious, high position, every modern convenience, cosy and comfortable. Public rooms. Excellent cuisine and service. Moderate tariff. Special rates by month or season.
C. W. M. CHATEAU,
Tels., 860, 3000. Proprietor.

BATHURST, Hotel Dudley.—Finest visitors' hotel, coolest, healthiest sit., all convs., terms mod.

HOBART.—An Experienced Traveller says:—"For solid comfort and excellent table, commend me to CARLTON CLUB HOTEL, Hobart." Terms: 52s 6d to 63s per week. Avoid disappointment, and book early.

MT. VICTORIA.—Grand Hotel, strictly private and first-class; fine grounds, suit. for families, and those requiring perfect rest, terms two guineas weekly, half for children to 14 years, 7s day for head of family for week-ends, good service trains, coaches, all sights. City office, 105 Pitt-st, or Manager, Grand Hotel, Mt. Vict.

NEW TREASURY HOTEL, spring-street, Melbourne. Finest position; hot, cold baths, electric light. Reasonable terms.
SHEEHAN, Proprietor.

COUNTRY RESORTS.

A GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ADVICE.

The Earl of Dudley, speaking at Sandringham, Melbourne, said—that whilst yachting was a fine healthy sport, fishing was more important. As residents of a seaboard town they should do all they possibly could to encourage fishing and seagoing.

EASTWAYS are the people to set you up in FISHING TACKLE.

You can't go wrong by coming to us.

EASTWAY BROTHERS, GEORGE-STREET.

BLUE MTS.—Accommodation for Visitors, spacious grounds, driving, dairy, orchard, moderate terms. To Holiday, Herald Office.

KATOOMBA, Sunbury, Lovel-st, on rd. swim. baths, 4 min. walk stn., Accom., 25s Mrs. Macpherson.

KATOOMBA.—Angaston, cor. Waratah and Ada sts, sup. Acc., cent. sights, 25s w., by day. Mrs. Melrose.

KATOOMBA.—Hillcrest, Katoomba-street, next R.C. Church, near stn. and all pleasure resorts, elevated position, spacious verandahs, rd. view, lge., airy rooms, lib. table, 25s. Mrs. STEPHENS.

KATOOMBA COFFEE PALACE.
This Ideal Mountain Home is beautifully situated, large recreation grounds, centre of all sights, all modern conveniences, excellent cuisine, tariff moderate.
RICHARD TAMM,
Tel., 35 Katoomba. Proprietor.

LUERA, near station.—Furnished Cottage, all conv., piano, gas. T. Quinn, 70A Pitt-st. Tel., 2101 Cent.

APARTMENTS, BOARD, RESIDENCE.

AT GLENHOLM, 146 Phillip-st.—Superior Board and Residence. Telephone, 410 City.

A well-furn. Bal. Room vac., suit finds. or M.C.

ALPINE HOUSE, 204-6-8 Victoria-st, Darlinghurst.—Newly built and constructed for conv. of boarders, 60 bedr., front, dble., single, bal. and smoking drawing-rm. Accommodation. Madden-Saxelbye, T. 2 Wentworth-st.

ARLINGTON and ARCADIA, 207 and 207½ Victoria-street, Darlinghurst.—Vacancies. Superior B. and Res., 1d tram, conv. to city, good cuisine, hot baths, smoke and cafe rooms. Tel., 242 Williams.

CLUB CHAMBERS, 90 Phillip-st, near Botanic gardens.—Up-to-date Furn. Resid. Flat and b'last. T., 2145.

COUNTRY VISITORS.
THE FEDERAL MANSION HOUSE, Sir John Young-crescent, Lower Domain, will OPEN on MONDAY, Dec. 14. Country and interstate visitors will find a comfortable Home at above four minutes from General Post Office. Terms: Single Rooms from 5s per week, with 2 beds, 10s; Double, from 10s. Bathrooms and lavatories on each floor. Drawing and smoke rooms, dining-room. Meals optional; large promenade, roof garden.
M'188 TAYLOR.

DARLINGHURST.—Large Unfurn. Rooms, balcony, reasonable; single or flat. 35 Bayswater-rd.

DARLINGHURST.—Double and Single ROOMS, excellent table, moderate. Tanga, 213 Victoria-st.

DULWICH.—MASCOTTE, 1 Bayswater-rd, top Wm.-st. Fur. single Rooms, breakfast optional.

KIRRIBILLI POINT,
SUTHERLAND,
OPP. ADMIRALTY HOUSE.
Tel., 951 N.S.

RESIDENTIAL, 110 Phillip-st.—Furn. Single, Dble. Rooms, Bal. Room, near opp. German Club.

SUP. Board and Res.—The Continental Cafe, opp. the breakers. Tel., 182 Manly.

THOSE requiring BOARD and RESIDENCE, FLATS, ROOMS, FURN. HOUSES, etc., apply to JENKINSON and LOVEGROVE, Residential Agency, 367 Pitt-street. Tel., 538 City.

TO THOSE requiring Board and Residence, Rooms, Fur. Houses, etc.,
Apply Mrs. PETERS' AGENCY, top Hunter-street. Country Visitors especially catered for. No fee.

WANT wants quiet Home, bush, with piano, and axe exercise. Box 406, Herald.

TRADESMAN wants Board or Room and Breakfast with widow, no others. Central, P.O., Haymkt.

TUTOR des. B. and R., city, subs., return Teaching, exact Tuition in mus., own piano, fur. 747, Her.

HOUSES, LAND, ETC., WANTED.

DURING the Holidays inspect Rolfe Est., 40 Allots., close to Beach. Sale, Sat., 9th Jan. R., W., Ltd.

FIVE Rooms and 8 acres land wanted, near Epping, cheap. Write partics., H. Moore, 234 Sussex-st.

UNFURNISHED GENTLEMAN'S RESIDENCE, good tenant, no children, 4 bedrooms, 3 reception-rooms, 2 maids' rooms, storeroom, cellar if possible, moderate-sized garden, Potts Point, Darling Point, or Woollahra, not beyond Edgecliff preferred.
Box 496, G.P.O.

TO LET.

FURN. Cott., Mosm., tennis, views, all sizes, 25s, 30s, 42 2s, 42 3s. Griffiths, Avenue-rd. T., 146 M.

MOSMAN.—6 to 10 rms., 17s, 19s, 25s 6d, 30s, 35s, £150. Griffiths and Co., Avenue-rd. T., 146 M.

RESIDENTIAL and Dental Chambers, every convenience, and new. 179 Elizabeth-st, Hyde Park

HORSES, VEHICLES, & LIVE STOCK.

TWENTY Horses, heavy and light, from £4; also small Pony, £5; Sulkies, Buggies, Sociables, Village Spring, and Pagnell Carts, Waggons, Lorries, Tip and Spring Drays, any size; Timber Drays, Commercial Buggies; Baker's Cart, £7; Springcart, £5; Order Cart, £5. Square and Compass Sale Yards, 706 George-st, Haymkt.

SMALL Pony, Bradley Cart, Harness, £12, suit lady; Springcart, Horse, Harness, £7; Horse, Milk Cart, Harness, £8; Sulky, Pony, Harness, £12; Fruit Van, Horse, Harn., £10. 207 Thomas-street, Haymarket.

TWENTY Horses, Ponies, Vehicles, and Harn.; Pony Village Cart, Turnout, £12; Pony, Sulky Turnout, £12; Ten Fruit Vans, 4 Covered Waggons, fr. £12; Sulkies from £6; Vill. Cart, £4. 41 Engine-st, H'mkt.

FOR SALE, 11.2 Pony, Sulky, and Harness, a good trotter, and shaper, Parker, 8 Enmore-rd, Newtown.

WANTED, light 8.H. WAGGON, roomy, good order. 804, Herald.

DEAD and Worn-out Horses bought, highest price given. W. Tuneth, Bank-st, Chip'dale. T., 230 Red.

DEAD horses and Cows Bought, to 80s head; alive to £1. J. Connelly. Tel., 239 Redfern.

LOST AND FOUND.

LOST, Prince-ton Glasses, bet. Theatre Royal-R. Stn. Mrs. Smith, Isley, Garnet-st, Fern Hill.

LOST, betw. Macquarie-st and Cooper, Silver Link Brooch. Finder please return Colenla, M'quarie-st.

LOST, Friday, Leather Bag, Books, by Collins and Payne, R. of Arts; rew. M., 85 Elizabeth-st.

LOST, city, Thursday afn., Cat's Eye and Gold Bangle; reward. Jobbedua, 66 Castlereagh-st.

LOST, Corella Cockatoo; finder rewarded; anyone det. be prosc. W. Abbott, 23 Railway-rd, St. Peters.

LOST, Thursday, Mark Foy's, White Lace Blouse; reward. Mrs. Tristram, Bangor's-avenue, Mosman's.

LOST, 2 Yale Keys, on ring, city, Thursday; reward. C.o. Receiving Room, G.P.O.

LOST, Wednesday, in Newtown, gold Medal and Chain, name engrvd.; rew. 7 Elizroy-st, N'town.

LOST, round gold Brooch, bet. Pr. Hos. and riwy.; Wed. n., 7-7.30; rew. Hall Porter, P.A. Hos.

LOST, on 23rd, DIAMOND COLLAR STUD; reward. 25 Hunter-st.

LOST, in Pitt-st, rear railway, gold Amethyst Brooch. Apply 256 Pitt-st. Reward.

LOST, in An'dale or Bondi J'tion tram, Spectacles, in case, steel hook; rew. 51 An'dale-st, An'dale.

LOST, Parcel Drapery, between William and Napier sts, Darlinghurst; reward. 46 Napier-st.

LOST, the Morning Headache now that I stick to DICKENS WHISKY.

LOST, between Henry-st and Ashfield Station, on Tuesday evening, a Time Book and Cash Book. Reward on returning to O'HARA BROS., Sewerage Contractors, Henry-street, Ashfield.

LEFT on Burwood Station, Christmas Eve, PARCEL, containing Book and Envelope (Xmas Gift), addressed Mr. GODDEN, 64 Catherine-street, Leichhardt. Handsome reward.
Ashburner-street, Manly.

LOST.—Will finder of SILVER MATCHBOX, at corner of Castlereagh and King streets, Xmas Eve, 11.45, please return to LORD, Central Wharf, Miller's Point, on Monday, 28th, 9a; reward.

LOST, in city, Thursday afternoon, SOUTHERN CROSS, sea corals. Reward. Apply
Miss GORMAN, Fairydell,
Ashburner-street, Manly.

REW.—Lost, bet. Fern Hill and Dulwich Hill, 1 Bag Rope. Tom Sleete, Beach-st, Dulwich Hill.

WILL Lady who picked up PARCEL containing Gloves and Ribbon at Nelson-street, at 12.45 yesterday, in the Bondi tram, return to Mr. BLACK, the Grove, Queen-street, Woollahra. Reward.

MEETINGS.

THE ARALUEN STEAM SHOVEL GOLD-MINING CO., No Liability.—An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at the Boardroom, Vickery's chambers, Pitt-street, Sydney, on the 7th day of JANUARY Next, at 12 o'clock noon, to determine what steps shall be taken by the Directors to wind up the Company.
By order of the Board.
SAMUEL KEARNEY, Secretary.

WHERE is not he hope the heart would break. Give to the poor child Nestle's Chocolate Cake.

THE NEW

"REMINGTON" VISIBLE TYPEWRITER.

A MARVEL OF SIMPLICITY AND STRENGTH.

STOTT AND HOARE, LTD.,

MOORE-STREET (OPP. G.P.O.).

DO YOU WANT A TYPEWRITER?

IF SO, PICK ONE OF THESE:—No. 7 Remingtons, £10, £11, £12, £13, and £15; No. 8 Remingtons (Brief), £10 to £15; No. 6 Remingtons, £10; No. 5 Remingtons, £6 10s to £8; No. 2 Remington, £5; "Oliver" (Visible), £9; "Underwood" (Visible), £15; "Monarch" (Visible), Policy, £16; "Williams" (Visible), £5; "Rem-Sho," £8; "New Century" (Brief), £10; "Barlock" (Visible), £6; "Hammond," also "Jewett," £7; New "Blick," £9; "Smith Premier," No. 4 and Tab., £14; "Empire," Visible (Brief), £9; "Armstrong" (Visible), £5.

STOTT AND HOARE, LTD., MOORE-STREET, SYDNEY, OPP. G.P.O.

PROFESSIONS, TRADES, ETC.

A WELL-FITTING Set of TEETH makes life comfortable and pleasant, your digestion easy, and your breath sweet. For all kinds of Dental Work consult
SPENCER NOLAN,
THE PAINLESS DENTIST,
43 OXFORD-STREET
(next Joe Gardiner's).

Beautiful sets of Teeth from	£1 1 0
Gold Stoppings from	0 10 6
Amalgam Stoppings	0 5 0
Absolutely Painless Extractions	0 1 0

A.—WHEN you order ARTIFICIAL TEETH, no charge is made for PAINLESS EXTRACTIONS. All Dental Work can be paid for by a deposit of 5s, balance by small weekly payments.
ADVICE FREE.

OTTO A. KRACHT, Dentist,
The Burbank Dental Surgeries, Eden-buildings, George-street, opp. Hardware-place.
Hours: 9 to 8. Sat., 9 to 1. Tel., 788 City.

A.—PASCOE'S PAINLESS MODERN AMERICAN DENTISTRY FOR N.S.W. PEOPLE.
HOFFNUNG'S CHAMBERS, 109 Pitt-street, next G.P.O.
Branch, 117 King-street, 2 doors from Pitt-street.
PAINLESS EXTRACTIONS, 2s 6d; 9 to 10 a.m., 1s.
Tel., No. 4780.

BOXING DAY, SATURDAY, DEC. 26th.
For convenience of patients, our Offices will be open for Consultations during the morning from 9 a.m.

AUBREY DAVIS, DENTIST, 84 KING-STREET.—TIME PAYMENTS. Artificial Teeth at Cash Prices. Easy Terms given. Painless Extractions. My £2 2s Sets last a lifetime. Telephone, 6859.

A TAILORING NOTICE.
A HIGH-CLASS TAILORING on NEW EASY TERMS.
Deposit and terms arranged to your approval. High-class Tailoring, and only First-class Cutters employed. Fit and style guaranteed. A large variety of the latest and fashionable Suitings to select from. All work guaranteed first-class.
Call and inspect, or Travellers will call with samples on application.
H. J. COHEN,
108 Market-st, betw. Pitt and C'reagh sts. T., City 677.
Open All Day Saturday.

CARPENTER.—Experienced Man wants JOB, country. Ja. Bull, P.O., Arncliffe.

LADY PARTNER wanted, city, drapery bus., with £50, Protestant. C. E., Herald Office.

MEDICAL.—Locums, Assists., supplied; Practices transferred. Backhouse and Goyder, 90 Pitt-st.

MEDICAL Practices Transferred and Locums Tenens provided. Bruck, Medical Expert, 15 C'reagh-st.

MEDICAL.—For Purchase and Transfer of Practices, all States; Locums, Ships, Assistants. Ramsay.

PARTNER wtd., Brickmaking contract, big rete.; plant on land, £200. Busy B. Agcy., 21 Elizabeth-st.

PARTNER wtd., House, Est. Agcy., sub., active man, £4 wk., cash £40. Busy B. Agcy., 21 Elizabeth-st.

PARTNER wtd. to join another, Cheap Jack Hawking, cash £40 each. Busy B. Agcy., 21 Eliz. st.

PARTNERSHIP or Small Bus. wanted by Yg. Engineer, £300 to £500, no agents. Herald Office.

SPORTSMAN wants PARTNER, about £50. Ponies, G.P.O.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

MARRIED Couple, no encumbrance, wife work, hkpr. to bach., husband groom, gard., etc. 807, Herald.

RESP. Young Man (Ir) Position, garden work, etc., milk, moderate wages, refs. O., Herald Office.

POSITIONS VACANT.

BACCHUS MARSH CONCENTRATED MILK COMPANY, LTD.

APPLICATIONS are invited for position of FACTORY MANAGER at one of the above Company's Factories.

Applications will only be received from men fully qualified to take complete charge of a Factory, and who thoroughly understand the manufacture of Sweetened Condensed Milk, and have the necessary knowledge of machinery, etc.

Applications in writing, with full particulars of experience and copies of credentials, to be addressed to the Company's Sydney Office, 277 Clarence-street, when a personal interview will be arranged.

A liberal salary is offered, and all applications will be treated as confidential.

CANVASSER and Driver, for known laundry, ref. req., gd. salary, big comm. Busy Bee, 21 Ellz.-st.

CHEMISTS.—First-class Junior wanted, Melbourne. Apply morning, Room 29, Hotel Metropole.

JUNIOR CLERK wanted by Wine and Spirit Merchant, one with some knowledge of duties routine preferred. Salary 15s. Apply in own handwriting, stating experience (if any) and age, Box 148, G.P.O.

MILLINERS.—First-class MILLINER required for the country; must have A1 qualifications. Apply at 9.30 a.m. sharp, next Tuesday, 29th inst, to W. and A. M'ARTHUR, Ltd.,
79 York-street.

MUNICIPALITY OF MUSWELLBROOK.

APPLICATIONS, endorsed, and addressed to the Mayor will be received by the Council of the Municipality of Muswellbrook, for the position of TOWN CLERK and SECRETARY FOR GASWORKS, up to 6th January next.

Applicants to be qualified in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1906, and regulations thereunder. Salary, £130 per year.
PIERCE HEALY,
Town Clerk.
Council-chambers, Muswellbrook,
22nd December, 1908.

PHOTOGRAPHIC, re-toucher wanted, permanent. Esma, 26 Oxford-st, Sydney.

PLATELAYER.—Wanted, a competent MAN, for Fiji. Apply with references to
SHOP MANAGER,
Pyrmont Sugar Works.

REPRESENTATIVE. Smart, energetic SALESMAN required for country.
PRATTEN'S BRUSH, Importers, Makers of Calendars, and General Adv. Novelties, 247 George-st, Sydney.

WANTED, Apprentice for Piano and Organ Tuning and Repairing. Riva, 457 Oxford-st, Paddington.

WANTED, Lime Washers having spray appliance. Parties, Monday morning, 486 Kent-st, city.

SERVANTS WANTED.

A MARRIED COUPLE wanted, man sheep, handy, wife cook, bake, wash, small house, bachelor.
Mrs. MORISON,
19 Elizabeth-street, city.

MAN wanted, aged, fairly active, believer preferred, must have a knowledge of keeping horse, and milky clean, no apprentices need apply, horse, etc., a few shillings pocket money. L., P.O., Camperdown.

YOUNG Cook and Laundress, also House and Parlour Maid, for Bowral after holidays, for small private fam., w. 17s and 14s. Apply by letter, enclosing copies refs., Mrs. W. Fairfax, Allesley, Rose Bay.

NESTLE'S FOOD makes firm flesh and strong bone, and is not liable to produce superfluous fat.

TENDERS.

THE COMBINE IS BROKEN.

And we take the credit for having defeated it. We have also secured A SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR ALL BONA-FIDE BUILDERS, and now ask you to fulfil your part of the Contract by extending us your esteemed patronage. We have also purchased the whole of the Kauri Timber Co.'s Premises and Plant, which is the most up-to-date Machinery in Australasia.

We commence operations in our New Premises on Monday, 4th January, and are prepared to supply all kinds of Timber, also CUT LOGS, WITH OUR LOG BAND SAW, and Band Re-saws, AT REASONABLE RATES. Having better facilities for handling timber than any other firm, WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL CHEAPER.

GEORGE HUDSON AND SON, LTD.,

TIMBER MERCHANTS, REGENT-STREET, REDFERN.

'PHONES, 102, 256 REDFERN.

COUNTRY STOREKEEPERS & TIMBER MERCHANTS.

ORDERS PROMPTLY SUPPLIED IN LARGE QUANTITIES. Kauri, Cedar, Silky Oak, Walnut, Orgeon, Redwood, Battle, Turnery, Richmond River Pine, Pacific Pine, Doors, Sashes, White Pine, and Joinery in all its branches. Trucks loaded carefully at Darling Island. Hardwood Tracked Direct from Gurimbah, N.S.W. Send for Monthly Price-list.

Ring Balmain Exchange 248 and 209. Write Box 264, G.P.O.

H. McKENZIE, LIMITED, ELECTRIC SAWMILLS, GLEBE ISLAND.

ARTISTS and PAINTERS.—If you want best quality GOODS at Lowest Cost, buy from
JAMES SANDY and CO.,
226-228 George-street.

BRICKS for SALE, cheap and good. T. Daley, stands 9 brickworks, Sydenham-rd, Marrickville.

BUILDERS' and Gen. Ironmongery, Roofing Felt, Barb Wire, Pumps, Machinists, 207 Pitt-st.

FOR WIRE WORK go to Eastway's Great Store, George-st, below G.P.O.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SYDNEY.

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned until 3 o'clock p.m. on MONDAY, 4th January, 1909, for the SUPPLY of the various articles and the PERFORMANCE of the various works hereunder mentioned, for the year 1909, in accordance with the specifications to be seen at the office of the Comptroller of Corporation Assets and Stores, Town Hall, Sydney.

General Stores	Disinfectant
Plumbers' Requisites	Glass
Orderly Bins	Coal (General)
Indiarubber Hose	Coal (Electric Lighting)
Locks	Stationery
Paints	Repairing Chairs
Whitelead	Laundry Work
Brushware	Liquid Soap
Timber	Cement
Blacksmith's Work	Earthenware Pipes
Clothing	Kerb and Gutter (Sandstone)
Packings	Kerb and Gutter (Trachyte)
Engine Stores	Blacksmiths' Uniforms.

ELECTRICAL GOODS:
Oils, Chemicals, Castings, Wires and Cables, Electric Goods, Metals, Arc Lamps and Spares.

AND for the following, the specifications for which may be seen at the office of the City Surveyor, Town Hall, Sydney:—
Metal, Screenings, Pea Gravel.

ALSO for the following, the specifications for which may be seen at the office of the Chief Inspector of City Cleansing, Town Hall, Sydney.
Cleansing of Earth Closet Pans.
Collection of Glass and Iron from Tip.

Any modification, addition, or alteration of the specification or general conditions will render the tender informal.
The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
THOMAS H. NESBITT,
Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Sydney,
18th December, 1908.

THE BRITISH-AUSTRALIAN TIMBER COMPANY, Limited.
Wholesale and Retail Timber Merchants.
YARD, foot Johnston-street, Annandale.
OFFICE: 15 Bent-street, Sydney.

COLONIAL TIMBERS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
DELIVERIES GUARANTEED.
CONTRACTORS' REQUIREMENTS A SPECIALITY.
MILLS: Lismore, Coff's Harbour, Woolgoolga, Port Macquarie.
DALGETY AND COMPANY, Ltd., Agents.

TENDERS, Plumbing W.B. Cottage, labour. W. Hill, Kogarah-rd, Carlton.

FIREBRICKS, Lumps, and Fire Tiles, also Cement, Plaster, Slates (blue, green, purple), Metal Ceilings, Flooring, Hearth and Wall Tiles. G. E. CRANE and SONS, Building Material Depots, Pitt-street North.

DURING the Holidays inspect Rolfe Est., 40 Allots., close to Beach. Sale, Sat., 9th Jan. R., W., Ltd.

NESTLE'S FOOD is a perfect diet for babies and children.

FOR SALE.

FLY-PROOF DOORS.

We make FLY-PROOF DOORS and WINDOWS to any size required. DOORS from 6/6 each. WINDOWS from 4/6 EACH.
WE ALSO SEND MEN TO FIT THEM IF REQUIRED.

GEORGE HUDSON AND SON, LTD., TIMBER MERCHANTS, REGENT-STREET, REDFERN.

BEST PASPALUM SEED (Hand Shaken from the Growing Crop) for Sale; also, Orders booked for coming season's crop. We harvest from our own paddocks.
R. W. THOMPSON, Jun., and CO.,
Mullumbimby.

BIOGRAPH, Gaumont's latest, good as new, and Limelight Plant, etc, cheap. Plant, P.O., Mosman.

NESTLE'S FOOD is packed in tin hermetically-sealed tins. Sold by all stores and druggists.

STERLING Special Records, 1s ea.; Edison Bell Records, American and British Titles, now ready. Phonographs from 2s 6d weekly. STERLING PARLOURS, 209 Pitt-street (opp. Criterion).

LARGE QUANTITY of SCRAP LEATHER, suitable for all kinds of Leather Repairs.
J. C. LUDOWICI and SON, Ltd.,
117 York-street, Sydney.

NESTLE'S FOOD is economical; prepared by adding warm water only.

SLATES. SLATES. SLATES.
KIRK AND DICKINSON,
Direct Agents for Lord Penrhyn's Quarry, Bangor, North Wales.
Large Assortments of Roofing Slates, including Permanent Selected Greens.
Damp Course, 4in, 9in, 14in wide.
Estimates given for Town and Country Work.
KIRK and DICKINSON, Slaters and Slate Merchants, 79 Dixon-street, Haymarket, Sydney.
Tele., City 623.

SLATES. Best Bangor and American. Estimates given. G. T. Cross, 2 Bridge-st. Tel., 4105.

THE ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST S.N. CO., Limited.

TENDER FOR PROVIDORING STORES.

TENDERS will be received up to NOON on THURSDAY, the 31st day of December instant, from persons or firms willing to supply the undermentioned goods as required for year 1909:—
MEAT,
VEGETABLES AND FRUIT,
BREAD,
AERATED WATERS,
ICE,
MILK,
LAUNDRY,
GROCERIES.
The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.
T. H. JACKSON,
Manager.

DURING the Holidays inspect Rolfe Est., 40 Allots., close to Beach. Sale, Sat., 9th Jan. R., W., Ltd.

WOY WOY. WOY WOY. WOY WOY.
ON BOXING DAY—TO-MORROW.
AND A DAY FOR BARGAINS AT WOY WOY.
HUGH DUFFY and CO. will submit the following Properties, on BOXING DAY, at 11 a.m., at Mrs. MARSHALL'S HOTEL, Woy Woy.
MOUNT PLEASANT ESTATE.—Lots 37 and 34.
WARNER ESTATE.—POSITIVE CLEARANCE SALE. RESIDENTIAL SITES, handy to Railway Station, and right on Fishing Ground. Title Torrens. Terms, £1 per lot deposit, and

ON THE LAND.

FARM AND STATION.

CHRISTMAS IN THE BUSH.

Those who have never spent a Christmas in the bush have missed a delightful experience. Australia is rich in numberless shades and phases of human life and environment. Almost every human note can be struck; the scale ranges from the wild and bizarre to the highest product of civilisation. The crude and polished, the melancholy, the gay, the wilderness and the town—all contribute their discords and harmonies. Mark a few:—The crude surroundings of the mining camp; the pioneer's lonely hut in a wilderness; the unique life of the "overlander," now slowly passing away; the freedom of the outback cattle station, where men dwell in great spaces in a world of their own; the camp in the forest and mountain, in hidden nook and dale; the stock-sheepmen in the burning arid west; the stock-rider on the Snowy Ranges; and so the list runs on. Within a few days' journey lie cultured cities, the essence or modernity. Every phase has its story, its attraction, its part in the making of our national character. All have the fascination of the bush.

Yet for subtle charm the gatherings at Christmas in the bush have a distinctive supremacy. What is it? It is not altogether easy to say. We can feel and appreciate, or may be dread, influences that cannot be measured with the compass or rule, cannot be weighed or seen as an ounce of matter can, a physical occurrence. Let it be understood that this charm is not omnipotent. It exists for those who welcome it. It will flourish on congenial soil and ripen, and bear a harvest. It is above all the gift of youth. Yet the curmudgeon or cynic may not find it, will not find it if his heart is closed or reserved. The rippling stream will swerve aside from the harsh rock, but circle lovingly around green mossy banks. So with the charm of the bush at Christmastide. For the cynic and churl the pages are blank, although he who looks through world-weary eyes or judges with the sneer of criticism may find a book to his own liking, a rich field for his caustic wit. To him the picture of a bush Christmas may be one of blistering, stifling heat; of flies and other abominations that make life miserable. It may be summed up as all that is fearsome, unpleasant, and unpalatable. It all depends upon the point of view. The writer spent the happiest of holidays when the thermometer was over the hundred before breakfast, and the air was suffocating with the drifting smoke from bush fires that raged on the plains the other side of the mountains, and the sun hung in a leaden sky, a threatening dull red ball. There were compensations.

Compensations in a feeling of freedom that the bush alone can give, and give willingly; in the presence of a companionship seldom found. Happiness attained under circumstances where it was impossible from a philosopher's or cynic's standpoint, perhaps. Yet there are things the latter cannot understand. Christmastide is the time of youth, no matter how the years count, and healthy youth knows not philosophy or, happily, cynicism. Youth calls with ringing voice when the whistle of the magpie comes shrilly across the paddocks with the first flush of dawn; when the sky is ruddy with rosy golden glow, that glitters on the treetops and mountain peaks—herald of a hot day, but delicate and entrancing in its birth—when the cool breeze steals up from the river; when horses and riders in the morning gallop after a glorious swim are full of the joy of living. Youth calls, and it is good to be young.

The fascination of the bush is the absence of the conventional, the death of the artificial. The virile scent of the soil is too strong for these hothouse plants, but man is so much the richer. The bush is nothing if not natural. Innovations may be forced upon it, and glass-houses built with marvellous cunning, but the bush retreats shamefaced, hugging its freedom as it goes. Like the wild bird, it droops and dies in the cage. City-dwellers are necessarily the victims of convention, and though they bend to the yoke the shoulders are ever itching in silent protest. Rebel as they may, however, peace comes only with submission. It is the conventionality of little things that galls, little things which it would be ridiculous to clothe with the dignity of active opposition. It is the realm of the stiff collar. Prosaic enough, but who does not revel at times in the luxury of a loose neck, and this typifies the feeling of the unreal that falls away under the kindly influence generated by the freedom of the bush. We may not wish to enjoy that freedom for long, for the prisoner bugs his chains, but it is sweet at times.

In nothing more is the spirit of the bush exemplified than in the meeting with new acquaintances. There acquaintanceship begets a wholesome intimacy in the few hours absolutely unattainable under conventional conditions. A traveller on a country road hails the passing stranger with a nod or cheery word. It comes naturally. It is the tangible token of a common fellowship in a free heritage, the heritage of untrammelled open spaces. When the bush passes away the travellers will pass each other with the covert glance, savouring almost of suspicion.

This charming absence of conventionalism forms friendships in a few days that last for years and are always a dear memory. Propinquity may be a factor in this consummation, but it is the exhilaration of an unwonted free atmosphere, an atmosphere that calls out the best within us, that is the greatest influence. Such an atmosphere may be created elsewhere, May, indeed, be created wherever mankind throws aside the trappings of conventionalism and the reserve of every-day life, but it has not to be created in the bush. It is there—it is the bush itself. And while this is so at all times it is richer and more mellow when the Christmas season holds sway. The bush opens wide its great generous heart, and humanity comes closer together and—understands.

Nothing is more precious in life than such understanding. Its absence is the cause of many heartaches. And it is never fuller than at Christmas time, when the young folk have gathered at the homestead. There are generally visitors from town and city, and they soon learn, perhaps without realising it, how great the influence of the bush is. They find acquaintance ripen at a pace undreamt of, and appreciate qualities that would often otherwise be never known. It may be that the kindly influence of the season has to do with this, but the great cause comes from the fact that they are more natural and consequently vastly more entertaining. And so it is with their companions. The bush has its own way of knocking off superfluous artificial bumps and enfeebling inanities. And the visitors find themselves entering into fun and frolic with a hearty zest, which in others at other times would promote a superior disdain. It is partly the outcome of the exhilaration born of a healthy free environment. In the same manner the staid citizen may be seen disporting himself most frivolously in the surf by the sea shore. Here also is the return to the natural, only it is but for a brief span. The bathing suit is replaced with conventional apparel, and the jolly fellowship with conventional reserve. For the time there is a great resemblance between the surf and the bush, but the latter is more lasting. It entwines itself around the heart and makes the mind run with greater sympathy for other men. In doing so even with only a portion of those that come under its sway the bush is doing a mighty work. Of its influence there can be no doubt, nor of its strength and charm. In the midst of a strenuous city life many a man pauses for the moment and gratefully recalls the old bush home, the old bush pleasures, the environments, the joys and disappointments of past years. It all comes back with the scent of the gum leaves or the rustle of the grain in the wheatfield. And many a child of the city likewise lets his memory run back with a feeling of subtle satisfaction to the Christmas holiday spent in the bush—that is, those who have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed them.

ITEMS.

Whether the dry spring has conduced to the prevalence of insect pests or not, it is a matter of general remark that those which infest vegetables are very much in evidence this season. They are not confined to one portion only of the State, but seem to have distributed themselves pretty well all over it. Round Sydney, and even inland, the ladybird, or that variety of it which feeds on the pumpkin and garden products, has done a good deal of damage. Now it has appeared on the North Coast country, and at Wooroowoolgen it is committing great havoc. Not only so, but grubs are said to be well represented.

Ellalong is in the midst of a bad season, so far as the maize crops are concerned. The rains have been neither timely nor copious, and now it is reported that the maize looks worse than it has done for many years past.

Round Hill is a large Riverina property, on which a good deal of farming is done on the shares system. The crops on it are very good this year, running as high as 30 bushels to the acre in some places, and averaging 18 bushels all round. This is a very good return.

The farmers of the United States of America are perhaps the most consistent followers of the policy of loosening the top soil round lucerne at intervals in order to give it a fresh growth. At first it was done with the old-fashioned cutting implements, such as the common cultivator, but when the disc harrow was invented the farmers saw in it a much more satisfactory implement for that purpose. Now, however, they have found an improved one of Australian origin, and have adapted it to their own implements. They weld a set of spikes to each disc of their harrows, so that the implement tears the ground instead of cutting it, and claim that the results are very much better than with the disc harrows.

Mount Gambier, South Australia, is suffering just now from a plague of caterpillars, which seems to be an annual visitant, and makes its appearance just before Christmas. This year it was about a week later than usual, but it is cutting away everything green and causing a good deal of anxiety, especially amongst those who have potato crops and lucerne.

A movement has been initiated in Queensland for the formation of a Chamber of Agricultural Societies. The matter has been very warmly taken up by the National Association in Brisbane, which has often been asked by country societies to act in the position which such a chamber would occupy. A circular is to be sent to the various societies asking for their co-operation. Many matters will be dealt with by such a body, of which there may be mentioned the appointment of judges, the regulation of milking contests, the adoption of a standard in prize schedules, arrangement of dates for shows, and endorsement of disqualification by various societies. The chamber will also be asked to deal with the question of the veterinary inspection of stallions.

THE ANGORA GOAT.

We have recently received several inquiries in connection with Angora goat-breeding, which is evidently attracting increased attention. The following information taken from an article on the subject in the September number of the Queensland "Agricultural Journal" should be of value to those contemplating embarking in this industry:—

"In building up a grade flock the males must not be allowed to grow into bucks of breeding age, and in no case should any but a thoroughbred sire be used. These, it is stated, can be got from £5 5s to £15 15s each. If a few pure-bred does are purchased at the same time and to mate with this buck some good young bucks can be obtained to put to work later on. A remarkable feature about the thoroughbred Angora bucks is the rapidity with which they impart their distinguishing qualities to their progeny. It takes three or four crosses, commencing with common does, to produce a grade animal which can barely be distinguished from the thoroughbred at a short distance, and which produces a mohair fleece weighing from 3lb to 4lb of good average quality.

"The common does should be entirely white; any other colour is objectionable. Other desirable qualities are small head, short, smooth hair, and small horns. Objectionable features are long, coarse hair on the thighs and fore legs below the shoulders. The common does are very prolific, and can be obtained at a moderate figure. Always pick does with the shortest and finest hair. The short hair in mohair is known as "kemp," and the shorter you can get it the more valuable will be your clip. The buck should be as free from "kemp" as possible, so when selecting handle him carefully and look for the short, thick hairs that lie close to the skin; the less he has of them the better. Does crossed with a good buck will produce first grade, from which the best does can be selected, and so with careful management a flock of high quality can be built up. The young grade bucks should be converted into mutton. They make the best of mutton, and their skins are valuable for mats or rugs until the flock has been so bred up that it will pay to clip.

"As to the age for breeding: Goats reach maturity when about 16 or 18 months old. If bred earlier the kids will be undersized and partially developed. Kids should not be weaned until they are four and five months old, when they are very strong, but should not remain with their dams after they are five months old. Buck kids not reserved for breeding purposes should be castrated when about two weeks old. The kidding time is the most important time in the life of goats. For two or three days after the kids are dropped they are exceedingly delicate. They cannot rough it at this period, but will die from any little exposure and neglect. They are more delicate for a few weeks than lambs, but when large enough to follow the flock their constitutions are stronger, and they are well able to look after themselves. It is useless trying to rear Angoras unless you provide a small paddock for kidding, and keep the bucks and wethers away, and leave them as undisturbed as possible. The Americans go so far as to yard them at kidding time. As for climate, no place has been found that is too hot or too cold for Angoras. Though not partial to heat, they will stand it quite as long as sheep. Shade is essential to success if the sunshine is very hot. In considering Angora culture it is of more importance to study the climate with reference to moisture than temperature. Therefore, low lands with much moisture are not recommended. As a drought-resister the Angora excels in Australia completely eclipsed the merinos, and also beats them easily in the matter of yield and in scouring tests. A fair average yield for greasy merino fleeces is 4½ per cent., while similarly for greasy Angora fleece 65 per cent. is a fair average yield. In America there are about 300,000 Angoras, and the industry is a very thriving one. Cape Colony in 1900, had 4,000,000 Angoras, and exported £450,000 worth of mohair.

"As land cleaners goats have no equal. They are constantly at work, and it is wonderful how they will convert dense undergrowth into rich grazing land. We have any quantity of suitable land that would benefit by being cleaned up by flocks of goats, and at the same time the owner would not only have his country improved, but would have a clip of mohair and good mutton as well. So far little in this way has been done out here, but in the United States they have done wonderfully good work. One writer says:—'The work they have done is beyond my expectations, and what has been said about their efficiency as brush or land cleaners that I have read or heard of has not been withdrawn.' Another writer says that in the Hawaiian Islands they are being used to eradicate the lantana.

"As with all domestic animals, to get the best results they require good care. Generally speaking, they are hardy, and thrive well as far north as Alaska, and in the extreme heat of Guadalupe Island, so there is no reason why they should not do exceptionally well here, so long as the owner uses ordinary common sense in managing them. They will breed at five and six months old, but it is far better to allow them to come to maturity, and not to breed from them until they are 12 or 14 months old. They are in their prime about two to nine years, and have been known to breed up to 15 years. Old goats produce mohair of a coarser quality, which consequently is of less value than younger goats. The age is determined the same as sheep.

"Goats are less subject to disease than other animals, but when you notice a weak one in the flock be careful to isolate it for a few weeks until it regains its strength. The stronger goats are given to butting the weaker, and they get down and are trampled to death.

"It is generally agreed that in-and-in breeding produces the finest quality of mohair, having all the beautiful lustre and little oil, but then you must bear in mind you are reducing the size and constitution of the animals. The period of gestation in goats is 150 days, and care should be taken to mate them so that the kids are dropped in the warm months, as they are delicate for the first few days. It is not an uncommon thing for does to produce twins, but the higher the standard of your goats the less twins are produced. The average percentage of kids in large flocks is about 70 per cent., but with small flocks and care you should have 95 per cent. to 100 per cent. At kidding time the does should be kept at home and in small areas, as they are given to roaming in the larger areas, and lose their kids. Goats require plenty of fresh air, so it is unwise to crowd them in small yards with shelter-sheds that do not give them plenty of room. Good fleeced goats require dry sheds rather than warm ones. In close quarters they are given to butting, but do little harm.

"Shearing should not be delayed until the goats begin to shed, as the mohair loses its lustre, the skin itches, and every effort is made to get rid of the fleece. You can use your own judgment about shearing twice a year. It is allowed you get a little more in weight, but as against that your length of mohair is less, and the price falls accordingly. Angoras in some countries are shorn twice a year; the yield, of course, as with sheep, depends on the quality of goats you are grading up. It is all a matter of management on the part of the producer. If his goats are good, and showing 8 to 9 inches of hair, it might be preferable to clip twice in the year, so as to prevent the hair matting. Shearing machines are the best to use, and goat-owners find it to their advantage to use them. The fleeces should be kept as clean as possible, carefully rolled, and never tied with string, as manufacturers complain sorely about this practice.

"Mohair is the technical name for the fleece of the Angora goat; it is a hair pure and simple, and differs from wool, as it has not the felting properties of that product. The fleece of a good Angora goat should be pure white, and exceeding lustrous, attain an average length of 8 to 10 inches, and should hang in wavy curls or ringlets from all parts of the body. It is a fact known to practical breeders that goats have two coats of hair; the outer and more abundant is the mohair, and the under coat a coarse, chalky white, straight, stiff hair, which varies from ½in to 4 inches. This under hair is known as kemp, and is believed to be a relic of the common goat blood, and, as pointed out previously, this is what all breeders should try and breed out as much as possible. It reduces the value of your mohair, and is objectionable to the manufacturer, because it will not take the dyes used for mohair; the only effect of the dye is slightly to discolour the kemp. There are dyes which act upon kemp, but they have no effect on the mohair, and no dye up to the present has been found to act satisfactorily upon both.

"The record price for Australian mohair is 4s 2d per lb. This price was lately realised by Blaxland and Knox, of New South Wales, for a fleece from their imported buck Perfection. The fleece, weighing 9lb 8oz, and the skirted portion 6lb, was forwarded to a New York merchant, who paid 1 dollar (4s 2d) per lb, leaving a net return of £1 0s 2d. The demand for mohair is good, and there is every probability of an increasing demand, as new uses may be developed. The great beauty of mohair is the lustre, which remains in the manufactured article, and no amount of washing or dye will remove it; in fact, it aids the dyes to show their colours more truly, and, however much exposed, they will not fade."

The writer concludes:—"It may seem strange to many in a country like this, where sheep are so plentiful, that the subject of Angora mutton should be touched on, but during my visit to Townsville show last year I saw as fine a lot of grade Angora lambs, bred by Mr. J. R. Chisholm, as anyone would wish to see. He exhibited them alive, and had a number of them killed, dressed, and hung up amongst a number of crossbred lambs. I venture to say 99 out of every 100 persons who saw them could not pick out the Angoras. They dressed beautifully, and were sold to a leading butcher, who supplied them to some of the best people in the city, and I guarantee they never tasted anything better. He also told me that he bought them regularly at 12s 6d each, and there was a good market for them. Of course, goat meat is always associated with prejudice of the common "ill-smelling Billy," but anyone who knows anything about Angoras will tell you they are free from goat odour, and their meat is totally different from that of the common garden variety of goat; it is finer, carries more fat, is smaller in the bone, and more like merino lamb than anything else. In parts where sheep will not thrive, no man need be without good mutton if he keeps a few Angoras. The does are not equal as milkers to the common goat, but many good milkers are to be seen in various flocks; their milk is very rich, and many writers state that it is more nearly equivalent to human milk than that of any other animal. It is an old saying but a true one, that a goat will thrive where a sheep will starve,' and, further, goats are thriving in districts where cattle are dying of redwater and ticks, and it is a rare thing to find a cattle tick on them."

A WARNING TO FRUIT IMPORTERS.

The Minister of Agriculture desires to convey a warning to merchants importing fruit into this State, that it is the intention of the department to stamp out fruit diseases and pests, and with this end in view, the inspectors have been instructed to be extremely strict in the examination of fruit imported into New South Wales. The necessity for this has been made very apparent, in view of the poor quality and infestation of some recent importations.

THE "FARRER SCHOLARSHIP."

A "Farrer Scholarship," to the value of £10, is being competed for by students at the Wagga and Bathurst Experiment Farms. The successful student is to take his second year at any of the agricultural schools, the Hawkesbury College, or the Wagga or Bathurst Experiment Farm, provided he had already spent one year at one of those institutions. In the event of the fees for the second year's training being more than the amount of scholarship offered, the Minister of Agriculture agreed to forego that excess, in order that the scholar might enjoy the whole year's education free.

The first examination was held at the Bathurst Experiment Farm on the 17th inst, 17 students of that institution competing for the scholarship. The regulation provided that candidates were to submit themselves to a written and viva voce examination on "Cultivation of Wheat in New South Wales," and to submit a paper which had been prepared during their residence at the farm, on "Plant Breeding," and results of observations amongst the stud and crossbred wheats growing on the farm. The examination was held in Mr. R. C. Rennie, a student of the Bathurst Experiment Farm, being awarded the scholarship, Mr. E. K. Carroll, also a student of the Bathurst Farm, being placed second. The examination was conducted by Mr. G. L. Sutton, the Government Wheat Experimentalist.

ROTATION CROPPING.

EXPERIMENTS AT BATHURST.

REPORT BY MR. PEACOCK.

BATHURST.—Mr. Peacock, manager of the Bathurst Experimental Farm, is a stanch advocate of rotation cropping. This year he has obtained from wheat sown after red clover 37 bushels of grain to the acre, and approximately 45cwt straw. The crop of clover mown than paid for itself as sheep fodder. As to the cost of growing these crops under the new agricultural system Mr. Peacock gives the following information: "Rent, 5 per cent. on capital value, 7s per acre; six inch ploughing double furrow, contract price 4s acre; four inch ploughing with multiple plough, contract price 4s acre; another four inch ploughing, 4s acre; drilling in seed with manure, 1s 6d acre; manure, 1cwt superphosphate, 5s acre; seed, half-bushel, 3s acre; harrowing in spring, 1s acre; total, £1 11s 6d. Setting down the price of wheat at 3s per bushel the one acre yielding 37 bushels would give £5 11s as a return; the 15cwt straw at, say, £1 per ton, would add 15s to the total income from the acre, making in all £6 6s. Respecting the crop when sown after the wheat, which is the usual practice in the Bathurst district, the outlay would be:—Rent, 7s; ploughing with double furrow, 6s; drilling in seed (without manure), 1s; seed, half-bushel, 3s; spring harrowing, 1s; total 18s. The return, which is the average this year in the district, would be three bushels 50lb at 3s per bushel, 11s 6d; straw, 2cwt at £1 per ton, 2s; total, 13s 6d. Summed up, in ordinary practice the farmer stands to lose 4s 6d per acre, while in the new practice he will reap a profit of £4 14s 6d per acre. Generally speaking ordinary farming methods require an expenditure of 25s to 30s per acre to produce a crop. It takes ten bushels to the acre to pay expenses; and anything over may be said to be profit, anything under a loss. Under the system followed at the farm extra expense is incurred in additional ploughing and manuring; but even if the cost per acre is £2 10s, the profits compared with those to be made on the other plan are 100 per cent. greater. This has been clearly demonstrated by crops growing side by side on the farm.

PASTURES BOARDS.

GOULBURN.—At the meeting of the Pastures Protection Board the stock inspector (Mr. Kirkpatrick) reported:—The pasture is very fair but dry, and in some places good. The water supply is drying up, and heavy rains are required to replenish the tanks and creeks. Stock are in fair condition and healthy. Shearing is now practically completed, and the clip has turned out better than was at first anticipated. Rabbits have increased alarmingly, and nothing short of constant poisoning, hunting, and digging out will keep them in check. The inspector complained that in a few cases owners were not in his opinion doing as much as they ought in combating the rabbits, and suggested a special meeting of the board to order prosecutions failing a satisfactory explanation. The amount of £146 had been expended in clearing rabbit harbour from reserves representing an area of 1970 acres, the cost averaging a little under 1s 6d per acre. The inspector thought the money had been well spent. It was decided that certain persons who had been brought before the board for not destroying rabbits should be summoned, also that an assistant rabbit inspector should be appointed temporarily.

MOLONG.—At a recent meeting of the Molong Pastures Protection Board a letter was received from the Railway Commissioners in reply to a complaint from the board with respect to the prevalence of rabbits on railway land, stating that such is incorrect, as their destruction is systematically carried out by the railway authorities. The Minister for Lands wrote intimating that Government wire netting had been reduced in price, viz., 42 x 14 x 18 gauge, to £21 10s per mile; and 36 x 14 x 18 gauge to £18 17s 6d per mile on railway tracks at Darling Harbour. Quite a number of applications were received applying for portions of several t.s.r. and c.r., but they were refused in the majority of cases. No applications were received for Government wire netting. The stock inspector reported that he found all stock healthy and in fair condition. There are isolated patches of good grass country, but on the whole it was pretty scarce. The crops throughout the district have been comparative failures, but as much as 22 bushels to the acre have been obtained in the western portion of the district. The rabbit inspector reported that rabbits were not increasing, and breeding is not very active. A reasonable amount of destruction is being done by holders in general. Several owners are operating in the only manner calculated to eradicate the pest, viz., by netting, subdividing, and then digging out, followed by a proper supervision, with the use of dogs. The wire netting in of properties is still going on, and two places had been wire netted in. Bonuses on 95 foxes and 14 cubs, 1 native dog, and 564 crows' heads were passed for payment. The credit balance stands at £1355.

CANECUTTERS' CHEQUES.

MURWILLUMBAH.—Yesterday the canecutters engaged harvesting the cane crop were paid off at Condong mill. The men were out 21 weeks. The cheques ranged from £68 to £44.

DAIRYING.

WINGHAM.—Wingham Butter Factory paid suppliers 1od for first-grade, and 9d for second-grade for November. The turnover for the month was £1779 15s.

DISTRICT ITEMS.

CAMDEN.—At a meeting of the Camden A. H. and I. Society, the president, Major Onslow Thompson, on behalf of members and friends, presented Mr. E. J. Dengate with a purse of sovereigns as a parting gift, prior to his going to Queensland, in recognition of many services.

STOCK MOVEMENTS.

ALBURY.—2380 sheep, Lake Cowal to Jingellic, Hayward and Glover; 50 cattle, Walbundrie to Wodonga, W. Kiddle; 70 cattle, Gundagai to Wodonga, E. J. Owen; 10 cattle, Lockhart to Wodonga, D. L. Osborne; 3300 sheep, Forbes to Tallargatta, W. H. Hall; 90 cattle, Urana to Bonegilla, J. H. M'Geoch; 40 cattle, Wangaratta to Wagga Wagga, W. H. Wheatley; 17 horses, Wodonga to Tumut, P. J. Quirk; 100 rams, Geelong to Cowra, A. M'Williams.

GOODOOGA.—300 fat sheep, from Queensland to Sydney, trucking at Brewarrina. Moore Bros. owners.

Messrs. Piercy Ethell and Co. will offer to-morrow, at Hazelbrook, cottage sites and larger blocks, suitable for poultry or bee farms.

THE FISHERIES.

IMPORTANT CLOSURES.

Mr. F. Farnell presided at the final meeting of the Fisheries Board for the year on Wednesday.

Evidence of the continued pollution of the Lett River by dairy factories having been given, it was decided to ask the Works Department to take action under the Water Rights Act to prevent it. Mr. J. A. Brodie, the chief inspector, stated that he had been informed that the oil was noticeable on the river in many places.

The following closures were authorised:—Against all persons, Cockle Creek, the Eight-mile and Three-mile Lagoons near Kiandra, Cemetery Creek near Kiama, and Jenolan River above the spawning ponds. Closures against all methods of capture, except with rod and line or hand-line, with not more than two hooks thereon, from January 2, 1909, to December 31, 1909: Edward River, each side of Deniliquin; Murrumbidgee River, each side of Balranald, Gundagai, Wagga Wagga, and Darlington Point; Macquarie River, each side of Wellington; and Murray River, each side of Albury and Corowa. The closed area over the distances fixed last year. The Nepean River, from the railway bridge at Penrith to the junction of the Cataract River, near Douglas Park, was ordered to be closed for three years from January 2, 1909.

The Crown Solicitor advised that legislation could be introduced to define the rights of navigation in regard to oyster leases. The board decided to request the Crown Solicitor to draft a clause to meet the case.

The Crown Solicitor also informed the board that owners of leases were not under any section as at the Fisheries Act to cut, lop, or remove mangrove trees on their leased areas.

A report was received from the proprietors of a wool-scouring establishment at Liverpool to the effect that the system of filtration of effluent from the works had been completed, and was efficient, so that there would be no destruction of fish life through it running into George's River.

As the local inspector reported that there were only about 1000 bags of oyster spat available at Port Hacking for stocking leased areas, it was decided to restrict the sale of spat to that amount. About 2000 bags have been applied for.

The Berowra Creek Tourists' Association asked the board to establish more public oyster reserves on the shores of the creek, but as the board had already set apart 600 yards for that purpose it decided not to grant more. The board, however, decided to set apart landing places for the public on various leases if such should be required by the association.

Tenders were received from Messrs. Leonard and Denham and A. C. Ainsworth for the purchase of oysters at Warrell Creek, Nambucca, at 10s per bag, and from W. B. Buckman for the purchase of 50 bags at 11s per bag. It was decided to deal with those who were prepared to buy the lot, and, after ballot, the tender of Messrs. Leonard and Denham was accepted. The quantity estimated is 300 bags.

The board considered resolutions tabled by Mr. W. C. Gentry to the effect that it courted the fullest inquiry on oath into the working of the Fisheries Act, and carried these unanimously. The resolutions were forwarded to the Chief Secretary.

Several applications for oyster leases on recognised net-hauling grounds were refused.

The Works Department reported that the suggested improvements at the Harbour jetty for the convenience of fishermen in embarking and landing their catches would cost about £200. The board decided to urge the department to carry out the work.

Before the next meeting of the Farmers' and Fishers' Association of Launceston, the board procured 61 live perch for transmission to Tasmania. The fish were packed in moss, but all died on the voyage, although they left Sydney in good order.

The hon. secretary of the Rod-fishers' Society asked that the board would take steps to poison cormorants on inland lakes, as they were destroying large numbers of fish. The board would not agree to the suggestion being carried into effect.

A resident of Narrabeen asked whether short nets for the capture of prawns could be used in the lake. It was decided that during the closure no nets of any kind could be permitted.

Cautions were ordered to be given to persons at Newcastle found with undersize jewfish and flathead in their possession.

The number of cormorants destroyed during the fortnight was stated to be 230, at a cost of £3 16s 8d.

CHRISTMAS TREE ON FIRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—In your report of the fire at Rawson Hall, where the Christmas tree, arranged by the Central Methodist Mission for the children of the district, was destroyed, you say that as a result "a number of children may lose their Christmas presents."

The poor children, who have not too many luxuries, were full of eager enthusiasm, and the burning of the presents was a sore disappointment. I am writing to say that the mission intends to see that the children lose nothing. Perhaps some of your readers might like to help to replace the Christmas presents upon a new tree.

I am, etc.,
P. J. STEPHEN.
Central Methodist Mission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—Referring to your article on the above unfortunate incident in Thursday's issue, I am glad to say that we are already making arrangements for another and larger distribution of toys and Christmas cheer among the Miller's Point children. On Saturday afternoon week we purpose giving the disappointed little folk, some 400 in number, a better time than would have been theirs last night but for the unfortunate fire that destroyed the beautiful Christmas tree, and at one time threatened the destruction of the entire building.

If any of your readers care to help in this I shall be very grateful. Contributions may be sent to me as below.

Although the Rawson Hall was crowded with women and children, owing to the fine discipline shown by the stewards the building was emptied within three minutes, without accident of any kind.

I am, etc.,
WM. G. TAYLOR,
Superintendent.
C. M. M. Headquarters,
139 Castlereagh-street, city.

BORN WITH BAD ECZEMA,

Which Spread Over Body, Head, and Limbs.—No Rest or Sleep for Mother or Child.—Doctor would not let Him be Bathed.—Cured by Cuticura.

"My little boy was born with his legs and the lower part of his body covered with eczema. The doctor gave me a lotion for it, and told me not to wash the little one. I carried out my orders until his head, face, and shoulders were covered with the humour. Then I informed the doctor that the lotion was doing no good. He gave me a different lotion and an ointment, but still insisted on saying not to bathe the baby. I used the remedies, but he got no better. There was no rest, no sleep, for baby nor myself, and I was worn out. Baby was very thin, and seemed to be getting worse every day. I resolved to give the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment a trial. I am thankful to-day that I did, for one set cured him. He is as fat now and sleeps as well as any child of fifteen months, and I still use Cuticura Soap for his bath. Mrs. Gauld, Oldeghead, Rothiemurchus, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Jan. 18, 1908."—Advt.

NEW SYDNEY.

A GREAT CITY TAKING STOCK.

No. XXI.

THE HARBOUR FORESHORES.

Mr. Notting, as the representative of the enthusiasts who desire ardently the preservation of the natural beauties of Sydney Harbour, gave his (and their) views to the Commission. Here the matter of civic improvement is apparently easy, but actually difficult. It would seem that the problem is simple, elementary. All we have to do is to keep a tight grip upon the open spaces on the harbour foreshores which exist at present. Restoration of some already alienated in picturesque spots might be desirable, if a comprehensive scheme of beautification of the city approach—of the water portal, one of the two approaches which civic planners start their plans from—is to be carried out, or considered. But preserving the status quo of nature would be a splendid measure. Simple though the mere question of the Crown holding on to the reserves which it has appears to be, the progressives who desire Sydney to retain its beauty on the water front find themselves confronted with a solid wall of official stupidity and do—nothingism. Readers of the "Herald" no doubt have the editorial protests against the expropriation of the Vaucluse area fresh in their minds. They have not forgotten the official attitude with which the protests were met, nor the results which followed.

CONSERVING AND RESTORING.

The claims of the Foreshores Vigilance Committee, whose views were voiced by Mr. Notting, would probably be endorsed by expert opinion in any great city in the world—(1) That instant action should be taken to resume and allocate for public use all the unbuilt upon or slightly improved foreshores of Sydney Harbour required for the use of the public. (2) The necessity for the resumption of waterside parks. (3) Specific areas named to be resumed in Middle Harbour, at Balmoral, Spit, Clontarf, Manly, North Harbour, Parsley Bay, Vaucluse, and on Parramatta River. (4) The preservation inviolate of the open spaces at present held by the Crown on the harbour (this applies to Middle Harbour). The central objective which the foreshores vigilance people have in view appears to be "the setting of our picturesque harbour." We are much inclined to boast of the beauties of our bay; and no city in the world, if native and foreign testimony is to be believed, can show such a marvellous combination of commercial, mercantile, and scenic advantages. But if the statements of the foreshores committee are true (and unfortunately they are not exaggerated), we will not long be able to boast, except of what are known to poets as "departed glories."

BURNHAM, CITY PLANNER.

The American cities are the latest devotees to scientific city planning and beautification, and it is significant to find how much stress their experts place upon the treatment of the water fronts. River drives are one of the objectives of the civic landscapist, with garden frontages. New York, Harrisburg, Baltimore, Washington, and many other cities have big designs toward for the beautification of their strands. Rio de Janeiro—Sydney's great rival in natural advantages—has more level ground on the harbour strand; and therefore it lends itself to the water drive. Sydney's foreshores rise abruptly from the water; and this, though it precludes shore drives like those of Rio, has a compensating advantage to our shipping, in giving us deep water at the land's edge. The principle of the treatment which should be applied to Sydney has been well stated by Daniel Burnham, the foremost American city-planner, who is a member of the Washington Planning Commission (appointed to restore the plans of l'Enfant and Shepherd), and who replanned Manila and San Francisco.

USE AND ENJOYMENT.

One other witness put the objective of the deliberate planners in these words:—"Adequate provision could be made along the harbour front so as to preserve the ornamental character of the approach, while at the same time providing ample space for the commercial development of the city, but always carried out so that the commercial development should not spoil the beautiful entrance to the city by the harbour." And the same witness quoted Burnham's directions as to the improvement of Manila, in the Philippine Islands, in which he said:—"Besides the possibility of abundant foliage and fountains of water, Manila possesses the greatest resources for recreation and refreshment in its river and its ocean bay. Whatever portions of either have been given up to private use should be reclaimed where possible, and such positions as are still under public control should be developed and for ever maintained for the use and enjoyment of the people." This shows that, without communication, the views of the Foreshores Vigilance Committee run in the same lines as those of the foremost city planner, D. H. Burnham. And it must be remembered that Manila is a flat site, with a shallow bay, and not capable of picturesque development as Sydney is.

BEAUTY AS AN ASSET.

There are, no doubt, men on the commission who realise the value of harbour beauty as an asset. It needs no argument to convince them upon that subject. Some of them must have information at first hand as to the decline in values which certain estates in Sydney have suffered through the destruction of the natural beauties and the disfurement of the scenery. There are several examples both on the North Shore and other railway and tramway lines. The mere destruction of trees has depreciated site values, while it is well known that the better class of suburban dwellers, who go to some architectural pains with their own houses, will fight shy of a harbour suburb where rock and hoarding disfigurement is rampant, or where the scenic beauties have been impaired by deforestation. This principle applies to the city as a whole. In no city is there such a chance of combining beauty with utility on the water front. Such lake fronts as Geneva, Lucerne, Como, are examples of what artistic decoration can do, and in these places, where big and small overlake steamers ply, the wharfs and buildings are so planned as to add to and not take from the scenic values.

HARBOUR AND STATE.

Mr. Notting put one phase of the harbour conservation before the commission which, no doubt, will weigh with them in the plans which they lay down, and may possibly influence the Government in the final determination. He pointed out that not only is this matter one for Sydney dwellers to trouble themselves over; it affects the people of the whole State. Sydney is the national recreation ground at holiday time, and the country visitor loses no opportunity of using the harbour when he pays it a visit. Thus the harbour must be used as a trust for the whole population. The argument could be carried further, for Sydney is not only the greatest commercial entrepot of the Southern Greater Britain, and fourth in the list of British tonnage; she is also the central focus of amusement for the Commonwealth, except on one occasion, viz., the Melbourne Cup. Therefore the words of Mr. Notting and his confreres should have weight. Their plea is that as beautification is one of the subjects of inquiry of the commission, it is to be hoped that special attention will be paid to the harbour foreshores, for it would not be consistent to confine attention to the beautification and improvement of the metropolis without ensuring for all time the appropriate appearance of its noble harbour portico.

GNAWING PARK HUNGER.

The views of Mr. Notting's associates are apparently in advance of public opinion in Sydney at present, as in the course of his evidence he pointed out several regrettable loses by the Crown of opportunities of adding to the public strands on the harbour owing to the inaction and the want of knowledge of either the Ministerial heads or of the departmental officers, some of whom would be benefited (and the country which pays them also) by a perusal of some modern book on city planning and park conservation, such, for example, as Major Sexby's "Parks and Gardens of London," and "City Planning," by Charles Mulford Robinson. The first of these volumes would show how public spirit and private philanthropy co-operated in conserving open spaces which have not a tithe of the beauty or the natural advantages of Sydney Harbour. It would have been regarded as an offence against public taste if the London County Council had neglected the opportunity of securing historic Hainault Forest of 750 acres, or had declined the offer of Sir Ernest Waterlow of the splendid park which bears his name, on the ground that the upkeep was a financial burden. Not only the seven million Londoners but the whole of England applauded these additions to the park spaces of London, and extolled the benevolent earth-hunger which animated Lord Rosebery and his colleagues.

PUBLIC CONSCIENCE.

We can easily conjure up the indignation which would thrill Europe if it were proposed to despoil the magic beauty spots of Lucerne Lake and Como. A vivid public conscience in these matters exists in Europe with regard to the well-known places, as was proved by the international concern manifested when it was proposed to alienate and apply Killarney to base uses. And, notwithstanding the lovely attributes of the Irish lake, and its unique attractiveness in certain aspects, it can be truly said that Sydney Harbour far surpasses it in all-round charm and beauty. Nor need Sydney Harbour fear a comparison with the Swiss, Tyrolese, or Italian lakes, except so far as the Alpine setting is concerned. If that is so, and the writer has had an opportunity of making the comparison, what a national sin it would be if, through sheer official ignorance and indifference, the chances of adjusting the commercial to the scenic aspect of Sydney were allowed to slip.

COLOSSAL VANDALISM.

There is neither ignorance not indifference in the Royal Commission on Sydney improvement; but there might be a danger in attending closely to the urgent demands of a "sternly practical" nature, of overlooking the not less exigent claims of harbour improvement and preservation. For, judging by the official attitude, anything leaning to the side of the "splendidly artistic" in the treatment of Sydney problems will be vetoed unless

BIRTHS.

BENNETT.—November 27, 1908, at Rohais, Clifford-street, Parramatta North, to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Bennett—a daughter.

MARSHMAN.—December 2, at Caro, Robinson-street, Chatswood, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred. A. Mashman—a son (Noel).

DEATHS.

ELLIOTT.—December 24, at her residence, Wigram-street, Granville, Ann M. Elliott, beloved wife of the late Henry Elliott, aged 77 years.

FOWLER.—December 24, 1908, at her daughter's residence, New Canterbury-road, Dulwich Hill, Maria, relict of the late George Fowler, of Milton, Ulladulla, aged 82 years.

MACKAY.—December 24, at her residence, Ithaca, Burwood-street, Burwood, Margaret, beloved wife of John Mackay, aged 73 years. R.I.P.

MOORE.—December 24, 1908, at her residence, 125 St. John's road, Forest Lodge, Ada Jane, beloved wife of Robert Alfred Moore, aged 41 years.

IN MEMORIAM.

BARRINGTON.—In loving memory of our dear father, Joe Barrington, beloved husband of Sarah Barrington, who passed away at Kensington, December 25, 1898. Inserted by his loving sons and daughters, Cecil, Bernhard, Norman, Lil, and Vagda Barrington.
To live in hearts he loved is not to die.

CAULFIELD.—December 25, 1903. In loving memory of my dear brother, Paul, who met his death at the corner of Riley-street and William-street, Woolloomooloo, on Christmas Day, December 25. Sweet Jesus, have mercy on his soul. Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, William and Mary Seale.

DANIELS.—In sad but loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father, Samuel Daniels, who died at the Coast Hospital, December 25, 1901, aged 45 years. Gone, but not forgotten. Inserted by his loving wife, M. A. Daniels, and family.

EMBERSON.—In loving memory of our darling Norma, only daughter, who fell asleep on Christmas afternoon, 1905. Sadly missed. Inserted by her sorrowing parents, George and Elsie Emberson.

FYFE.—A tribute of unfading love to the memory of our dear daughter, Maude, who departed this life December 25th, 1901, aged 17 years. Inserted by her loving parents, J. C. and E. Fyfe.

HAINES.—In ever loving memory of Herbert Christopher, dearly loved son of Christopher and Henrietta Haines, who died on Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years. Sacred heart of Jesus, have mercy on his soul. Inserted by his lonely mother and father. R.I.P.

HAINES.—In ever loving memory of our dear departed brother, Herbert Christopher, who died Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years.
Eternal rest give to him, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine on his soul.
Inserted by his loving sister, Elvy, and brother, Archie. R.I.P.

HAINES.—In remembrance of my friend, Herbert Haines (Curly), departed this life December 25, 1907. Son C.

HAINES.—In sad but loving memory of my dearly departed friend, Herbert Christopher Haines, who died Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years.
Unknown and forgotten by some you may be,
But the grave that contains you is sacred to me.
Inserted by his ever loving friend, Louie Bezold. R.I.P.

HAINES.—In ever fond memory of my dear departed friend, Herbert Christopher Haines, who died Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years.
They miss him most who loved him best.
Inserted by his dear friend, Edward Friedewald. R.I.P.

HAINES.—In ever loving memory of our dearly loved cousin, Herbert Christopher, who died Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years.
He was gentle, good, and kind,
None more pure in heart and mind.
Inserted by his loving cousin, Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham. R.I.P.

HAINES.—In ever loving memory of my dearly loved cousin, Herbert Christopher, who died Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years. Gone, but not forgotten. Inserted by his loving cousin, Gus Piper. R.I.P.

HAINES.—In loving memory of Herbert Christopher Haines, who departed this life Christmas Day, 1907, aged 24 years. Beloved and respected by all who knew him. Inserted by Mr. and Mrs. Bezold and family. R.I.P.

HENDERSON.—To the memory of dear Emma, beloved wife of Alfred Henderson, who fell asleep December 25, 1906, at her residence, 207 Stanmore-road, Petersham, aged 36. Laid to rest (till her Lord returns) in the Rookwood Cemetery until the day break and the shadows flee away. Alfred.

LOOSEMORE.—In loving memory of our dear son, Fred., who was called to the higher life December 25, 1907, at Prince Alfred Hospital, aged 22 years. Not lost, but gone before.
No need for silent grieving,
Though bitter tears may fall,
For you are in God's keeping,
And that to us is all.
Inserted by his sorrowing parents, W. and R. Loosemore, Violet Cottage, White-street, Leichhardt.

LOOSEMORE.—In fond and ever loving memory of our dear brother, Fred., who was called to the higher life December 25, 1907, at Prince Alfred Hospital, aged 22 years.
Always of you, dear Fred., we are thinking,
Grieved to be from you apart;
In tears of grief we watched you sinking,
With a painful and broken heart.
Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, R. and R. Simms, and his little niece, Cissie.

LOOSEMORE.—A tribute of love and affection to our dear brother Fred., who was called to rest December 25 (Christmas Day), 1907, at Prince Alfred Hospital. At rest.
Rest, dear brother, we would not awake thee,
For fear care and sorrow would darken thy brow,
How sweet is thy rest, with the birds warbling o'er thee!
No more of life's troubles shall harm thee now.
Inserted by his affectionate sisters, Alice and Ollie, and brothers Will, Harold, and Clarrie.

LOOSEMORE.—In loving memory of our dear Fred, who passed away at Prince Alfred Hospital, December 25th, 1907, aged 22 years.
Could I have been there in that hour of death,
To have caught the last sigh of your parting breath,
Your last faint whisper it might have heard,
And breathed in your ear a parting word.
Inserted by his loving sister-in-law and family, Elizabeth, Willie, and Violet Shaw.

MERCHANT.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Bridget Merchant, who departed this life Christmas morn, 1902.
When we think of all the changes
That the last six years have brought,
We feel glad the world that holds you
Is the world that changes not.
Inserted by her loving children.

ORRELL.—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, William Henry Orrell (late of Government Printing Office), who departed this life December 25, 1901. Inserted by his father, sisters, and brothers.

O'SULLIVAN.—In fond memory of our little friend, Thomas O'Sullivan, who departed this life December 25, 1907. Inserted by his loving friends, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crewes.

RYNG.—In fond and loving memory of our dear mother, Mary Ryng, who departed this life, Christmas morning, 1904. Inserted by her affectionate children, Daniel, Johnny, and Mary.

WILLS.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Emma Louisa, who died 24th December, 1900. Inserted by her loving daughter, Amy, Annie, Bessie, and Lily. At rest.

WILKINS.—In loving memory of our dear mother, who departed this life December 25, 1906, aged 65; also our dear father, who departed this life November 28, 1890, aged 62. Inserted by their loving sons, Will, Jack, and Jim, and daughter, Becky.

WRIGHT.—In loving remembrance of my dear wife and our loving mother, Martha Wright, who departed this life December 25, 1907, after a very short illness. Deeply missed by those who loved her.
One year ago, no tongue can tell
How anxiously we stood
Beside our darling mother's bed,
To keep her if we could.
But stern do, dear mother, take your rest;
They miss you most who love you best.
Inserted by her loving husband, Robert; also children, Ralph, Elsie, Harold, Gladys Wright.

WRIGHT.—In loving remembrance of my dear mother, Martha Wright, who departed this life December 25, 1907.
Sadly missed.
Your smiles we call to memory,
Your voice we long to hear.
Oh, mother, oft we think of you,
For you to us was dear.
We think we see your loving smile,
Although one year has passed,
And in our memory fresh you live,
And will until the last.
Inserted by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Maud and Thomas Ferguson.

WRIGHT.—In loving remembrance of my dear sister, Martha Wright, who departed this life December 25, 1907, and sadly mourned.
Inserted by her loving sister and brother-in-law, James and Lydia Brennan; also niece and nephew, Florance and James Brennan; and her loving mother, Mary Ann Lovedaya.
All you who have a sister so fond and true,
Cherish her all you can,
For when she's gone, and gone for ever,
You will miss her everywhere.

WRIGHT.—In sad and loving remembrance of Martha Wright, who departed her life on December 25, 1907.
May she rest in peace. Her hands shall never work any more. Inserted by her loving friends, E. and H. Roberts.

RETURN THANKS.

Mrs. T. A. CLARK and FAMILY desire to express their sincere and heartfelt THANKS to their many friends and relatives for letters, telegrams, cards, floral tributes, and kind expressions of sympathy in their recent sad loss of a husband and father.

Mr. and Mrs. MARCUS CLARK desire to return their heartfelt THANKS to their many friends and relatives for letters, telegrams, floral tributes, and kind expressions of sympathy in their recent sad loss of their brother.

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

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The Sydney Morning Herald.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 25, 1908.

PEACE AND GOODWILL.

The Christmas message comes each year with a new meaning if we are willing to look at the season in the right way. "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men" was the first message, and it was followed by the Cross and a sword. Yet, broadly, peace has been an ever-growing certainty; and to-day, as we compare the present with the past, we are constrained to admit that there was never so much genuine progress nor such honest concern for the welfare of mankind among men of good will. The great principles of Christianity have won and are winning an ever-widening way. It may appear, perhaps, as if the Church and the profession of religion had come to another period of stagnation. We shall be told that history is repeating itself. To look back to the middle of the eighteenth century, when London was about the size of Sydney, and the country districts in England were as much cut off from one another as some of the provinces of China to-day, may seem an unreasonable undertaking under the circumstances. Nevertheless the comparison will be made. We can hardly believe, in such connection, that the church bells in some parishes were rung to announce the results of cock and prize fights, and it does not appear quite fair to argue that the times of the Great Revival, of which Lecky writes with so much power, can point a moral in our own day. Yet some ministers of religion and many laymen insist that the Church has lost its hold upon, if not its message for, the masses, and we are asked to believe that only an upheaval can bring in the light again. This may be quite true from certain standpoints. The work to be done within and without the Church to-day was never so onerous, nor has there ever been so much direct criticism of its methods and results. A little consideration will show, however, that at no point in human history was the field for fruitful Christian enterprise so ready for the harvester, nor have previous centuries shown such a genuine leaven of the Master's spirit and presence. The Church is finding that this field is extending on all sides, leaving it, no doubt, somewhat isolated in the spread of a vast harvest; but peace and goodwill have come and are coming because of the message, and its business is to take wider views and rise to a great occasion.

But is the peace real, and does the goodwill mean anything more than enlightened selfishness? Have we not wars and rumours of war, and are not labour and capital preparing for a series of pitched battles in the citadels of Christendom? Much, no doubt, depends upon what is meant by peace. A lazy contentment with things as they are is not peace, and the mere lack of bloodshed on such a scale as the world saw not so long ago in Manchuria does not necessarily prove a happy surplus of goodwill. The forces which make for chaos and cruelty at their worst are still active, and are probably more virulent than ever. But it is one of the paradoxes of human progress that a great moral march forward is always accompanied by concentration of the armies of evil and desperation. The greater the circle of light, the greater the circle of darkness. Let in the sun to the caverns, and the earth seems to be peopled at once with bats and owls and evil beasts. Turn over the stones, and the country seems to be crawling, and the venomous creatures of the darkness appear ready to take possession of the palaces of men. We have to admit that there never was so much danger of an overwhelming disaster as at the present Christmastide, because armies and navies were never so well prepared nor so scientifically equipped with weapons of destruction. Even now the world's peace may hang upon Bulgaria's sensitiveness or Austria's ambitions, and an accident may let loose the dogs of war on a scale that makes one shudder to contemplate. Still, the truth remains that the lessons and value of peace were never before so fully learned or appreciated, and the goodwill of man to man was never at such a pitch of wholesomeness. The Christmas bells do not ring us reminders of slothfulness and selfishness in peace and prosperity, but of eager activity in well-doing; and where the bells do not reach, and where men's hearts are tuned to a music perhaps deeper than is sung by the Churches, there is still the story of a great victory.

HOLIDAY TRADE AND TRAFFIC.

One of our commonplaces is the congestion of traffic in Sydney, but the surprise of the present season is the way in which people have poured in and poured out of the metropolis without serious difficulty. The delays and friction incidental to such a time have been sufficiently trying, and we do not seek to minimise them. Our correspondent bears witness to the ills which have been borne by the travelling public, and to the hardships which have been endured by women and children on the way from country districts. Much of this cannot be overlooked on the plea that it is inseparable from a rush. There is still room for improvement in the handling of railway and tramway traffic, and the Commissioners cannot expect to be given a clean sheet until things in many directions are altered. But they may very justly plead for some consideration, in that they are crippled by work undone and by the delays due to Ministerial and Parliamentary caution or obstinacy. Moreover, they certainly are entitled to full praise for the way in which they have so far seen us through the holidays. The marvel is that people on the move in summer backwards and forwards do not tire sooner, and that the general good temper lasts so long; yet once the case is put so we realise that in the main there must be a fine level of achievement reached by the men who have to handle the traffic under double and treble pressure. It is here that the Railway Department and the multitude of people engaged on the shipping and ferry services, in running private vehicles, and in generally organising the rush to and from Sydney, all deserve their meed of praise.

But another feature of the season is the money that is being spent. Families cannot be moved wholesale to the mountains or the seaside without the expenditure of a good deal of hard cash; nor can visitors pour in to Sydney unless they are fairly well equipped with the medium of exchange. It shows that prevailing prosperity is the fact, and that, in spite of drought, bush fires, deficient crops, falling prices for the metals, and disappointment in many mining ventures, there is plenty of solid wealth in the Commonwealth. As a community we probably do not realise how well off we are. Statistics do not reveal much except to the expert few, and even so they may be manipulated or mangled unless the bases of calculation and comparison are properly and truly laid. But the way in which the holidays are spent, and the volume of business which is done in a great city when so many are supposed to be away from it, show at once how deep the foundations of our well-being are being put in. We begin to ask, naturally enough, how it has happened, and how long it will last. We have to remember that there is much in the largess of nature, in a run of fairly good seasons, and in the greater facility with which we are developing our magnificent resources. Yet much more is to come if we are honest with ourselves and fair to the Empire. Population is our greatest asset, and still remains our greatest need. Every evidence of abounding prosperity is a warning that other people are watching, and that a continent only settled on the fringe is a constant temptation to the hungry Powers in need of territory for their surplus souls. The holiday has its reminder, whether we like it or not, and our business is to think while we travel and when we sit down to enjoy ourselves.

TRAMWAY AWARDS.

We were noting yesterday that the state of railway finance justified concessions of material value to customers. Under the completed awards of the Tramway Board another class of persons stands to gain considerably from the Railway Commissioners. The whole question of rates of pay and conditions of service for tramway employees has been exhaustively reviewed, and the result is a fine testimonial to the value of wages boards—at any rate, from the employees' point of view. Railway finance must contemplate fair and even liberal conditions for employees; and the public, we are glad to think, is never inclined to take a niggardly view of the value of its servants. We want to be well served, and in the case of railway and tramway employees it is further necessary that we should be served safely. On the whole, we manage to secure an excellent class of men, and we are prepared to pay them well, provided that on their part they show a proper understanding of the fact that they are the servants and not the masters of the public. The awards of the Tramway Board show clearly that the men may be sure of receiving a fair consideration of any reasonable demands. Taken in conjunction with the concession of an eight-hour day, made some time back at a cost of some £60,000 a year, the new increases in salary granted to the various branches of the service will total up to no insignificant amount. In the case of many classes of labour, substantial additions of pay have been granted, and taking it all round there are few men in the service who will not find themselves better off in the coming year.

The union has therefore good reason to be satisfied with the working of the board system, and it is to be hoped that it has learned a lesson that it will never forget. In spite of mistakes, for which it might very well have been penalised by public opinion, it has received generous treatment; and it is worth while to say that this calls for some return. The men have it very largely in their power to aid in the smooth working of the tramways, and the least return they can make is a determination to avoid friction. There is another point they would do well to bear in mind. The tramways are a business proposition; and while we want the labour conditions to be equal to the most liberal likely to be granted by any private employer, the Commissioners have also a duty to the public in the shape of securing the economic working of their services. They cannot be expected to pay labour rates in excess of what could be secured in the open market. The men should therefore take a sane view of the situation. If one demand is looked on as a stepping-stone to another—a habit of mind not altogether uncommon—it is plain that a limit will soon be reached beyond which reasonably sound finance cannot go. On the whole, the tramway employees were not underpaid before the present advances were granted, nor were their labour conditions inordinately severe. While we are glad that they have been able, at the hands of an impartial tribunal, to better their position, they ought therefore to recognise that they have received more than cold justice. Doubtless one result of the award will be to encourage other sections of the employees of the Railway Commissioners to ask for concessions, as the locomotive engine drivers have lately been doing. In all such cases, if the men will realise that the Commissioners have a double duty to discharge, and that their duty to the public cannot be neglected, we shall have gone most of the way to an amicable and fair settlement.

THE BARRIER POSITION.

According to our most recent information, both the Proprietary mine and Block 10 Company at Broken Hill have definitely determined to adhere to the decision announced recently to go back to the old agreement, which means that they intend to reduce wages as from January next. While thus deciding, however, the two companies have signified their willingness to have the dispute referred to the Federal Arbitration Court, as had been previously proposed by the unions. Assuming that there is no legal obstacle to the course proposed—for a nice point arises as to whether the case is one in which the industrial tribunals set up by the State of New South Wales may be legitimately ignored—there is no room to question its wisdom. If the possibilities of settlement by private conference have been exhausted, then assuredly the next best thing to do is to seek the intervention of one of the Courts. The immediate problem, therefore, is to get the men to work amicably until such time as the Court's award is given. If we may judge from recent statements of union officials it is not likely that the men will take kindly to reduction pending an award which may not be given for months ahead, especially as the other mines voluntarily agreed to continue paying wages at the present rate. In the circumstances it is perhaps to be regretted that the two companies concerned in the present dispute had not obviated any such possibility by refraining from enforcing the reduction until the questions in issue had been determined by the Court. At the same time, they agree that if the Court should fix the wages higher than the old rate, which is next month to be reverted to, the award shall have a retrospective action. This is a fair proposition, and should appeal to the men as such unless they wait for their passions to be fanned afresh by industrious agitators. When the dispute comes within the purview of a Court it should be possible to get more precise information than has probably been available at private conferences, as to how it comes that the largest and most completely-equipped mine on the field is unable to continue paying the rate of wages which its smaller neighbours are content to pay. If it can be proved—and the men will have the opportunity of proving it if they can—that the Proprietary mine and Block 10 have as much margin with metals at present prices as the other mines have, it is extremely unlikely that the Court will fix a lower rate than those other mines are paying. In that case, the award being by consent retrospective, the men will lose nothing; and if they have confidence in their case they will be well-advised to agree to the reference to the Court on the terms now proposed. If, on the other hand, these two mines really cannot pay the present rate of wages without profits vanishing, then the sooner the fact is put beyond dispute the better.

STILL THE POST OFFICE.

The resignation of Senator Mulcahy from the Postal Commission is of interest because it throws a rather dramatic light on the way in which this inquiry is being conducted. The Commission has been working—and working hard—for some months, but it is very open to question if it has been working in the right way. The most obvious comment to make is that it has found itself overweighted. To have been really effective the inquiry ought to have been in the hands of a few technical and business experts, who would have brought a scientific and business capacity to bear on the practical problems at issue. The inquiry would have been much more effective had it been short and sharp. As it is, the Commission threatens to be drowned in the sea of evidence it has called forth. The inquiry has notably degenerated into a departmental heckling of the most ineffective kind. While it was necessary to take a broad and comprehensive view of the service, the plan of calling upon all and sundry to express their views on things in general could have only the result that we actually see. Whether the Commission will succeed in disentangling this enormous mass of "evidence," and in presenting a really useful report, is, to say the least, doubtful. The most that can be hoped for now is some finality to the proceedings. It must be perfectly clear to everyone that time and temper alike are now being wasted on an inordinately large scale, and the longer the inquiry is continued on the present lines the less significant is the final result likely to be.

The public interests demand that the Postal Department should be worked on lines which would make any great private concern a success. All we know is that the causes of complaint have been as numerous as they have been varied in character. It is the business of the Commission to find out the root conditions of failure, but it is not likely to do this if it loses its sense of perspective in a cloud of witnesses. It is still less likely to do good if it adopts the attitude of a prosecutor to the department. Senator Mulcahy is the best judge of the circumstances in which he has seen fit to withdraw from the inquiry; but there is no doubt that many witnesses have been treated in a way that leaves much to be desired. This is a result which was more or less unavoidable, having regard to the constitution of the Commission. While the individual members of the Commission have doubtless done their best according to their lights, the net results, it must be confessed, are disappointing, and there seems no adequate return for the labour and time expended. The Commission has been inquiring to the top of its bent, and one incidental result is that the service has been thrown into a ferment from end to end. This is certainly not calculated to improve the outlook so far as the long-suffering public is concerned, and the conflict of evidence seems likely to be a heavy burden for the Commission itself. The worst fault, however, is the undue length to which the investigation is being prolonged, and the admission of a mass of irrelevant detail that can only confuse the final result. If any good at all is to come of the inquiry its judgments will have to be purged of all this extraneous matter, and the Commission will have to learn to confine itself to a few clear-cut issues.

Saturday's "Herald."—On account of the large amount of advertising matter which has to be dealt with for Saturday's issue of the "Herald," advertisers and agents are requested to send in their advertisements as early as possible to-day, in order to facilitate classification.

Mr. Griffith's Advice.—The action of the Combined Unions at Broken Hill in submitting their dispute with the Proprietary Company to the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, instead of to the Industrial Court of this State, is in accord with the advice given to the unionists of Broken Hill by Mr. Griffith, M.L.A., in an address given by him at the Broken Hill Trades Hall shortly after the passage of Mr. Wade's Act. After severely criticising the principles on which Mr. Wade's measure is based, Mr. Griffith suggested that to ignore this measure need not necessarily mean an appeal to the method of the strike, but that it would be quite possible to federate with kindred unions at Port Pirie and other parts of the Commonwealth, and then submit to the Commonwealth Court any dispute which might arise. This advice was immediately adopted, the necessary federation with the unions at Port Pirie was accomplished, and registration in the Commonwealth Court obtained. As the Proprietary Company does not intend to raise the question of jurisdiction, the matter will therefore be adjudicated upon by the Federal Court.

The Domain During the Holidays.—The Domain gymnasium will be open to the children on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. It is closed on Christmas Day. The picnic fireplace near Mrs. Macquarie's Chair will be available on all public holidays. Water for billy-cans may be procured from the Victoria Fountain near at hand. Firewood is also provided free of charge or trouble to visitors.

Late Statistics.—Constitutionally census and statistics belong to the Commonwealth, but the States desiring for the present to retain their statistical bureau it was hoped that the arrangements entered into through the Statistical Conference of December, 1906, would result in the Commonwealth being able to publish statistics for Australia within a reasonable time. For several of the States, however, the statistics of production for 1907 are not, even now at the close of 1908, to hand, or if to hand they have not been furnished to the Commonwealth Statistician by the responsible officers as was agreed. This state of things cannot be accepted as satisfactory to the public, and certainly cannot be regarded as meeting the normal statistical requirements of the Commonwealth itself. Either the States should efficiently discharge their statistical functions, or they should abandon the work to the Commonwealth as contemplated in the Federal Constitution. The delay no doubt has arisen partly through the duplication of the work of compiling population and vital statistics, and if this duplication ceased the States would probably be in a better position to concentrate their effort on those branches of statistics the compilation of which has been left wholly in their hands—such, for example, the important statistics of production.

"By-and-Bye."—The Chief Secretary, while admitting that denominational institutions relieve the State of a great deal of charitable work, points out that only those institutions which are subject to Government control and inspection can be subsidised under the Act. The £1000 which was set aside for St. Vincent's Hospital during the See Government's regime was, he says, a special grant, which was passed because it had been specifically promised. It was generally understood at the time that no future grants for denominational charities would be sanctioned by Parliament. Mr. Wood added that he had read the remarks of Cardinal Moran regarding the work done at St. Vincent's, and possibly such a valuable institution might be placed on a better basis by-and-bye.

Unclaimed Letters at the Post Office.—The Post Office officials have not delivered a couple of important Christmas letters posted within the past few days. One is addressed to "Santa Claus, Greenland," and from the caligraphy the writer is evidently a child. When the great belief children have in the great toy distributer is remembered, it is not difficult to guess the nature of the contents. The second letter is even more remarkable, and is also apparently from a little child. It is addressed to God, and has affixed to the envelope a halfpenny New South Wales stamp. It is easy to guess some poor little soul having sent the epistle, but its purpose is more difficult to conjecture. Possibly it is merely a request to be remembered at this season, but there is a chance that some imaginative little one has seized upon what it believes to be the one opportunity of communicating with a dead mother or brother or sister.

Public Service Increments.—Special issues of the Government "Gazette," dated December 23, notify that in accordance with the regulations made under the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1902, the Public Service Board has determined, subject to the necessary provision being made therefor by Parliament, that officers (enumerated) shall receive the salaries set opposite their respective names from the date specified in each case. The amounts set out represent the increased salaries to which such officers are entitled under the terms of the regulations.

Ferry Steamer and Wharf.—The Balmain New Ferry Company's steamer Lady Rawson collided with the Stephen-street Wharf, Balmain, last night just before 10 o'clock. On board the Lady Rawson were a number of passengers, and she was approaching the wharf on her way from Bald Rock to Sydney, when owing to some cause which has not been explained, she crashed heavily on to the wharf, and rebounding, struck the hull of the new steamer Kuranda, launched a few days ago for the Sydney Ferries, Limited, which was moored a couple of lengths away. Considerable damage was sustained by the Lady Rawson, but she completed her trip to Sydney, where, on arrival, she was put out of commission.

Week-day timetables will be in force on all tramway lines to-day, but slight alterations will be made in departure times of tram between 5 and 9 a.m. and 5 and 6.30 p.m. Workmen's fares will be cancelled on all lines, and the Bondi Junction service via Pitt and Castlereagh streets will not run. A 12 minutes service will be run on the Long Bay-La Perouse line.

We have received a copy of "Australia To-day," a special number of the "Australasian Traveller."

We have received a copy of Messrs Anthony Hordern and Sons' calendar for 1909, which contains a map of the Commonwealth; also a wall calendar from Messrs. Winchcombe, Carson, and Co.

Mr. J. S. Bray forwards specimens of Christmas bush and water gum, and he says that the latter is being sold as a substitute for the more popular flowering bush.

THRILLING EXPERIENCE.

SHARK AND LADY SWIMMER.

FATAL RESULT FOLLOWS SHOCK.

A thrilling incident happened recently at Boambee Creek, near Coff's Harbour. Mr. T. H. Cooper, a commercial traveller, residing at Paddington, happened to be away on a business trip on the northern rivers, and while at Port Macquarie wrote inviting his wife to come up and spend a holiday. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper stayed at an hotel at Coff's Harbour, and on being asked if they would like some oysters from the lease both readily assented. The five-mile drive along the beach towards the lease was a pleasant one. As the day was very hot the visitors decided to swim the creek to get to the oyster bed. Not dreaming of any danger Mr. Cooper plunged in, and safely reached the other side, while his wife in the meantime was preparing to follow. Mrs. Cooper being an excellent swimmer, the husband had no fear on that score, and while opening oysters he was much startled by an agonising scream. Cooper at once went to the rescue, and found his wife in a state of collapse. After a struggle he succeeded in getting her ashore, when Mrs. Cooper informed him that she had seen a shark. Cooper after his exertions was also in an exhausted condition. Thinking that Mrs. Cooper had been mistaken the husband prevailed upon her to return with him to obtain their clothes. Mrs. Cooper was swimming strongly until the middle of the stream was reached, when she collapsed. Cooper, after a desperate struggle in keeping his wife afloat and swimming himself, had his efforts rewarded by safely reaching the land. Three days after her terrible experience Mrs. Cooper, who previous to the occurrence had always enjoyed the best of health, complained of feeling ill, and came on to Sydney, where she died a little over a week later. The husband, not anticipating anything serious, remained behind, and on account of the distance from Sydney was unable to reach his home in time to attend the funeral.

BALKAN SITUATION.

GRAVE DANGER CONTINUES.

THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

M. Isvolsky, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in a weighty circular Note to the Powers, emphasises the grave dangers which attend the unilateral action taken by Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria, and declares that the preliminary exchange of view among the Powers proposed by Austria-Hungary constitutes the introduction to the Conference with which the final decisions will rest.

M. Isvolsky adds that clause 25 of the Treaty of Berlin cannot simply be abolished; another article must be substituted to define the new situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Vienna correspondent of the "Times" writes that it is difficult to see how Austria-Hungary can evade this cogent argument, however unpalatable it will be to submit the clause to overhauling by the conference.

Article XXV. of the Treaty of Berlin, for which M. Isvolsky declares another must be substituted, is as follows:—"The provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be occupied and administered by Austria-Hungary. The Government of Austria-Hungary, not desiring to undertake the administration of the sandjak of Novibazar, the Ottoman Administration will continue to exercise its functions there. Nevertheless, in order to ensure the maintenance of the new political state of affairs, as well as freedom and security of communications, Austria-Hungary reserves the right of keeping garrisons and military and commercial roads in the whole of this part of the ancient vilayet of Bosnia. To this end the Governments of Austria-Hungary and Turkey reserve to themselves to come to an understanding on details."

NO PECUNIARY COMPENSATION.

It is semi-officially hinted in Vienna that Austria-Hungary will never compensate Turkey pecuniarily for the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is interpreted to mean that Baron Lexa von Aehrenthal, the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, fears that the Delegations of Austria and Hungary will not consent to such financial proposals.

DEMAND FOR AUTONOMY.

FEARS IN HERZEGOVINA.

The Mostar correspondent of the "Daily Mail" reports that there is great danger of a rising in Herzegovina unless the conference of the Powers grants autonomy.

THE CONGO STATE.

PRESSURE BY BRITAIN.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

A remarkable memorandum signed by many peers, 19 Bishops, 76 members of the House of Commons, numerous Lord Mayors, Mayors, representative merchants, philanthropists, and editors has been forwarded to Sir Edward Grey, expressing cordial support of the Government in its insistence that Belgium must give distinct assurances that treaty rights in the Congo State shall be respected, and that native communal and tribal tenure of land and products shall be recognised.

AMERICAN MUNICIPAL SCANDAL

BRIBING A COUNCIL.

ONLY SIX HONEST MEMBERS.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Councillors of Pittsburg Municipal Council (U.S.A.) have been accused of conspiring to secure by bribery the passage of certain ordinances connected with the issue of municipal bonds.

It is alleged that the President and cashier of the German National Bank are implicated.

Dec. 24.

President Roosevelt has initiated an investiation into the scandals at Pittsburg.

The investigator of the affairs of the German National Bank has discovered that 17,500 dollars (£3500) was paid to members of the council finance committee in June, to secure the transference to the bank of the city's deposits.

Reuter's correspondent at Pittsburg reports that the six councillors who were wanted on a charge of corruption have disappeared, and that the chief detective warning them has been dismissed.

Witnesses testified that 60 councillors had been bribed with 45,000dol. (£9000) to authorise the construction of a filtration plant for the water supply.

One witness swore that a councillor had hinted that there were only six members of the council who could not be bribed. One councillor by a ruse received a bribe in an hotel in connection with woodpaving of the streets. A flashlight photograph showed this act of bribery.

ROYAL GRAVES DESECRATED.

GOLDEN WREATHS STOLEN.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Golden wreaths have been stolen from the graves of two Kings in Roskilde Cathedral, the burial place of the Royal family of Denmark. Thieves also stole the silver cross which Queen Alexandra laid on the tombs of her parents.

LABOUR BLACKLISTS.

PUNISHMENT IN AMERICA.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Judge Wright, of Washington, has sentenced Gompers (president), Mitchell (vice-president), and Morison (secretary), of the Federation of Labour, to 12 months, nine months, and six months' imprisonment respectively for contempt of court in ignoring an injunction by persistently blacklisting the Bucks Stove Range Company. The prisoners were admitted to bail pending an appeal.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

RELEASE OF AGITATORS.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst and other woman franchise agitators, who were released from prison this morning, received an ovation.

Breakfast was provided, after which they paraded through London in waggonettes.

CHEAPER CABLES.

COMPANIES FEEL CRITICISM.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Mr. Lemieux, Postmaster-General of Canada, in the course of an interview, said he was confident that cheaper Atlantic telegrams were near at hand. He predicts that the cable companies will reduce charges to avoid the construction of the Anglo-Canadian Government cable.

VENEZUELA.

CASTRO'S SUCCESSOR.

A MAN OF RESOURCE.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Senor Gomez, Acting President of Venezuela, discovered that Senor Cardenas, President Castro's personal secretary, had been entrusted with the execution of the assassination conspiracy, with the help of mutinous regiment commanded by Colonel Castro, brother of President Castro.

Senor Gomez thereupon boldly personally arrested Colonel Castro, and accused Cardenas, who defiantly denied the plot.

Senor Gomez pinioned him to prevent the use of his revolver, and imprisoned him, thus breaking the back of the plot.

SETTLING DISPUTES.

DUTCH DEMONSTRATIONS SUSPENDED.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

Senor Gomez, Acting President of Venezuela, asks for a settlement of disputes with the United States, and has invited an American warship to visit La Guayra. The desire for a visit of an American warship is interpreted at Washington as a precaution to prevent disorders.

Mr. W. I. Buchanan has been appointed a special commissioner to Venezuela, and is proceeding thither aboard the cruiser North Carolina.

Holland has suspended her naval demonstrations against Venezuela.

Dr. Paul, ex-Foreign Minister, is starting for Europe to settle Venezuela's international disputes.

The international disputes which await settlement by Venezuela all relate to concessions which have been granted by President Castro to foreign syndicates, and afterwards withdrawn on account of some alleged failure to carry out conditions. These disputes relate to the Italian mining concession, the Belgian waterworks concession, the French cable concession, the American salt, asphalte, and shipping concessions, and the British match concession. The Dutch dispute is concerning the navigation decree, which shuts off all Dutch shipping from the Republic.

AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE.

ENLARGING ITS SCOPE.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

President Roosevelt has enlarged the scope of the secret service by merging all detective agencies into a bureau of criminal investigation under the control of the Department of Justice.

NEW YORK THEATRE BURNT.

OCCUPANTS' NARROW ESCAPE.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

The Herald-square Theatre, Broadway, New York, has been destroyed by fire.

The audience and actors had a narrow escape.

WRECK OF THE IRADA.

RESCUE BY COASTGUARDS.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Coastguardsmen rescued the survivors of the steamer Irada, which was wrecked on Mizen Head, Cork, by means of ropes and ladders, while they were attempting to scale precipitous cliffs.

THE AMERICA CUP.

SIR THOMAS LIPTON WITHDRAWS.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

Sir Thomas Lipton has abandoned his challenge in connection with the America Cup next year, owing to the restrictions imposed by the New York Yacht Club.

The "Glasgow Herald" recently wrote:—"As there appear to be some misconceptions in the public mind as to the exact position in which the America Cup question stands, it is necessary to make the facts clear. No formal challenge (August 7) has been made, and negotiations between the parties are no further advanced than they were a year ago. The onus of procedure lies with the challenger. It will be recalled that last year Sir Thomas Lipton offered to build a 75-footer to the new American measurements rule, which is understood to develop a useful kind of boat. This was not accepted. The New York Yacht Club insisted on the maximum limit of 90ft, and they also reserved the right to stick to the scow or skimming dish, to the shell hull, deep-weighted bulb, and canvas powered type. Sir Thomas had the whole yachting world with him in declining to treat on such conditions, and there the matter ended for the time. What has happened since then is simple of explanation. With the authority of Sir Thomas Lipton, it has been announced through public journals that he is willing to accept unconditionally the ultimatum as to size. So far as the receiving club is concerned, this is what may be termed an absolutely unofficial challenge, and it must remain so, unacknowledged, unless proceeded with in the usual way."

MR. LEE AT PORT MACQUARIE.

THE NORTH COAST RAILWAY.

PORT MACQUARIE, Thursday.

At the conclusion of the last council meeting the Mayor, Alderman Rosenbaum, entertained the aldermen and Mr. C. A. Lee (Minister for Works) and Mr. R. Davidson at luncheon.

In acknowledging the toast of the State Parliament the Minister stated the policy of the Government was to place people on the land. For this reason he had now in hand 300 miles of railway either in course of construction or under survey from Maitland to Grafton. They fully intended to complete this important national work, and he expected to see the railway across the Hastings River before five years. When finished it would prove of untold benefit to the North Coast, and especially that population along the route. He believed the sooner the line was completed the better, as a saving in the interest on the outlay would be effected. The Minister referred to the growing prosperity of the country, most of the settlers on the North Coast owning their own properties, and the majority being comparatively independent. He advised the people of Port Macquarie to make the town attractive, as he felt sure it was destined to be the sanatorium of the North Coast. The situation and climate were lovely, and if properly advertised the town would be visited by many who at present know very little about it.

Mr. Davidson also spoke, and a very pleasant evening of an informal nature was spent.

Mr. Lee is remaining here over the Christmas holidays, enjoying the fishing and natural beauties of the place. He feels the climate exceedingly recuperative.

NEW HOME FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

THE WATERFALL BUILDINGS.

HELENSBURGH, Thursday.

The "home" or hospital for consumptives, situated between Helensburgh and Waterfall, will be ready for occupation during January next. Under normal circumstances 240 patients can be provided for at the new institution, but up to 300 could, it is stated, be accommodated without overcrowding. The site is 1000 feet above sea level, in close proximity to a never-failing water supply. About 20 acres of land have been dedicated as grounds for the institution, and the buildings cover practically one acre. The hospital proper comprises six large wards, two small wards, one dining-room, eight lavatories, and spacious corridors and balconies. The wards are heated by copper radiators.

The sewage system consists of three concrete septic tanks, and two rubble filter beds.

The Aquatic Notes in the "Sydney Mail" by "Trident" never lose interest week by week. The author is always well informed on important matches, and his remarks this week are full of interest.—Advt.

WAR AGAINST TRUSTS.

OUSTING THE STANDARD OIL.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

The Supreme Court of Missouri has ousted the subsidiary companies of the Standard Oil Company of America from the State. It has dissolved the Waters Pierce Oil and Saint Louis Companies, and has fined each company 50,000 dols. (£10,000).

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, in testifying recently before the Inquiry Commission at New York, gave some account of the origin and methods of the Standard Oil Trust. He told (writes the correspondent of the London "Daily Telegraph") how his combination, which had not then become the Oil Trust, reached out its tentacles for more and more of the refineries of its rivals, and fattened on them for 10 years or more, till it became strong enough to change into what became the Standard Oil Company of Ohio. That was the first trust organised in the history of American commerce. Between 1872 and 1882 the Rockefeller combine bought and bought its rivals, and when it was strong enough it organised them all in the famous trust. Mr. Rockefeller said that the company was constantly reaching out for more refineries and more markets. It bought refineries to get them out of competition, and to get their business. That is the way Mr. H. H. Rogers and Mr. John D. Archbold went into the company. They were bought up. Both were strong, brilliant, and bold. The Rockefeller combine had to get them out of the way. It absorbed their rival concerns and them at the same time. He went on to say that Mr. Rogers, the most prominent figure in the active business of the Oil Trust since its creator retired to the golf links, was "acquired" with Charles Pratt and Co., of Brooklyn. He was Mr. Pratt's partner. They had a great trade in astral oil. Mr. Rockefeller wanted the trade, the plant, and Mr. Rogers, whose brains he appreciated. They were absorbed.

Mr. Archbold was a partner in Porter, Merlin, and Co., of Titusville, Pa. This concern, with Bennett, Warner, and Co., had three big refineries, and were dangerous rivals. They also had Mr. Archbold, whom Mr. Rockefeller has described in his memoirs as a bold and brilliant young man when they first met. Pratt and Co. were absorbed in 1874, and Porter, Merlin, and Co. were bought up in 1875; the cost was heavy. Witness did not state how much the Archbold concern was worth, but he said the value of the properties owned by Pratt and Co., of Philadelphia, was £600,000. However, in acquiring them, the growing oil combination obtained possession of two of the greatest men who have appeared in the commercial history of the country.

The tentacles of the growing Trust first caught the Long Island Refining Company, of Long Island. The Devoe Can Company, which made the kind of cans the Rockefellers wanted for their oil, was absorbed. They reduced the price of the cans from 10s to 2s. The Imperial Refining Company, of Oil City, was gobbled up; Chess, Carley, and Co., of Louisville, followed. Then the Rogers and Archbold concerns and the Wardenfreye Company fell victims to the determined policy.

The great mind behind the combination saw beyond. Mr. Rockefeller snapped up the American Lubricating Company, and, once in that field, he looked around for more lubricating companies, and before his rivals appreciated what had been done his combine controlled most of these concerns that had done business between 1870 and 1880.

It was an amazing story of the gradual and continuous development of contracts and agreements with all sorts and classes of men, ranging from a small trader to a big railway company.

Mr. Rockefeller denied that there had been anything which savoured of illegitimacy in any of the transactions attending the formation and extension of the Standard Oil.

Suddenly, and without any introduction, Mr. Milburn interpolated this vital question:

"Now, Mr. Rockefeller, is there any truth in the suggestions that you spent much of your energy in crushing out and crippling legitimate competition?"

Mr. Rockefeller leaned forward, and declared, in the loudest and most emphatic tones, "It is untrue. It is untrue."

Later the Duke King described what he called the superior industrial methods of the concern, how the best men, the best machinery, the best organisation, and the best equipment were employed, the absence of waste, etc.

"When oil was found," he said, "we arranged that men should be on the spot day and night, so that not a drop was wasted. It has been the delight and hobby of my life to build up perfect storage tanks. I declare," he said, "that our company's presence has been a godsend to the regions where oil is found."

MACHINE-CUT COAL.

DISPUTE OVER WHEELING.

SOUTH GRETA NOT WORKING.

WEST MAITLAND, Thursday.

Trouble in regard to working machine-cut coal at South Greta colliery was further discussed last evening at the adjourned conference between the representatives of the men and management. Mr. Miller, manager of the South Greta, was interviewed by Mr. A. Lewis, district treasurer, and Mr. D. Jackson, secretary of the lodge, but no further progress was made. Subsequently the result of negotiations was reported to a meeting of men.

Mr. Lewis said that they were prepared to have wheeling by horse if possible; and in the absence of that wheeling to be done independent of filling altogether—that was, for a man to do wheeling alone. That phase of the question was talked about, but so far as the company was concerned it did not favour that view. Then the question came as to wheeling being done as part of filling, as was sometimes done in other mines in the district. He (Mr. Lewis) chose before the committee of management, and after discussing them very fully they came to the conclusion that it was advisable to have an arrangement for one month. The terms for shooting and filling they accepted for that time were the terms governing Abermain agreement. Before the month was finished they should be able to draw up an agreement satisfactory to both sides. In the absence of evidence, whatever they might arrange would be purely haphazard, and might bear unjustly on the company or upon the men. But there was no difficulty regarding wheeling. Mr. Jackson and himself tried to show by every means in their power that 3d per ton was a reasonable thing, and that they could not go under it. Personally, he could not make any other arrangement even for a temporary period. Mr. Miller at first offered 1½d per ton. Then he came up to 2d. So far as he was personally concerned, Mr. Miller could not go beyond that, and they induced him to confer over the telephone with directors in Sydney, but they would not go above 2d a ton for wheeling. He pointed out to Mr. Miller that he could not disguise the fact that if they could not arrange the matter in a week or two he was afraid something of a very different character might occur, as the committee of management passed a resolution that in the event of no agreement being arrived at with South Greta Company, and the men being sent home by reason of the introduction of machines, the whole of the men cease work after a vote of the district had been taken. The meeting resolved to have nothing to do with wheeling in connection with shooting down and filling. The men went to work to-day, but as the manager declined to allow the machine bord to be included they refused to cavil for places, and in consequence are not likely to go to work on Monday.

INTERSTATE CRICKET.

MATCH AGAINST VICTORIA.

The selectors, Messrs. F. A. Iredale, E. Hume, and G. P. Barbour, yesterday afternoon decided upon the team to represent New South Wales against Victoria in the match beginning at Melbourne to-morrow. The selection is:—

A. J. Hopkins	J. C. Barnes
M. A. Noble	C. G. Macartney
W. Bardsley	M. Carter
E. F. Waddy	A. Cotter
S. E. Gregory	S. Emery
A. Diamond	E. L. Waddy (12th).

N.S.W. AGAINST QUEENSLAND.

The New South Wales team to play against Queensland, commencing next Friday, January 1, is:—

A. B. S. White (capt.)	W. Farnsworth
F. Johnson	D. C. Reid
C. Gorry	A. J. Bowden
A. J. Minnett	E. R. Bubb
H. Goddard	C. J. Kelleway
E. Barbour	A. J. Nicholls (12th)

Those chosen in the previous engagement and now omitted are:—N. Y. Deane, J. Hodgkinson, J. Scott, and A. J. Nicholls is twelfth. The men to take their places are E. Barbour, W. Farnsworth (who was 12th at Brisbane), and A. J. Bowden. It is hard luck for Nicholls to be omitted after getting 58 and 3 at Brisbane. The colt of the team is E. Barbour, the Sydney Grammar School lad. He has played intermittently for Burwood, but it is in other good class matches in which he has shone as a batsman and as a bowler. It was expected A. J. Bowden would be chosen. He was not available for the Brisbane trip.

"Australian Terriers in England" is the subject of an illustrated article in this week's "Sydney Mail."—Advt.

THE CRICKET TURMOIL.

ADVICE FROM LONDON.

WITHDRAWAL OF PROGRAMME POSSIBLE.

LONDON, Dec. 23.

The "Sportsman" advises the Australian Board of Control to go warily and not be too grasping, "for," the paper adds, "if the board causes the defection of many leading players, the English Board of Control will be quite justified in eliminating its programme, as the invitation was especially given to a representative Australian team."

ALDERMAN M'ELHONE'S VIEW.

THE "SPORTSMAN" ONE-SIDED.

Alderman M'Elhone, speaking upon the cable message yesterday afternoon said: "The English Board of Control would not be any more justified in eliminating the programme on account of the absence of several leading players than the Australian Board of Control would have been in cancelling the programme arranged by the Marylebone Club because the leading players were absent from the English team which visited Australia. The 'Sportsman' apparently is ignorant of the fact that if the programme be eliminated it will be directly in the teeth of an expressed arrangement with the Marylebone Club that the Board of Control should send a team.

"Considering that Australia had to put up with a team which was minus the leading players of England last year, and that the various Australian associations had to make good a substantial amount to the Marylebone Club in accordance with the guarantee of the takings up to £10,000, the position taken up by the "Sportsman" is one-sided.

"The reason why the Marylebone Club could not get a number of its leading players was because it would not pay them £400 instead of £300, which was offered by the M.C.C. It was thought in Australia that the club could easily afford to offer the extra £100. Later on, when the M.C.C. stood its ground, and would not increase the offered remuneration, some of the leading players withdrew from the position they had taken up, and wished to come for £300, but the M.C.C. would have none of them. The M.C.C. retained its dignity, Australia lost £2598 8s 4d, which was paid to the M.C.C. Australian associations thought a lot, but said nothing when the English team was chosen. M.C.C. then had no financial responsibility, Australia had. Now M.C.C. again has no responsibility, nor has the English board of control, so why should either object to the team?"

THE CERTAINTIES.

The certainties for the Australian team will be chosen on Friday next in Melbourne. Mr. F. A. Iredale, the New South Wales representative on the selection committee, will leave for the southern capital on Thursday next. The object in deciding thus early as to the certainties is to enable them to appoint the manager, and then to get the approval of the board. The remaining members of the team will not be decided upon probably until the return match with Victoria, and to wait until then would interfere with work in connection with the tour.

FIXING THE FINANCES.

MR. E. E. BEAN EXPLAINS.

WANTS BALANCE-SHEET FROM MR. LAVER.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

Mr. E. E. Bean, one of the Victorian representatives on the Board of Control, said, "The opinion of the writer in the 'Sportsman' has been based probably on incorrect information which has appeared in a section of the Melbourne press, and which, doubtless, has been cabled to London. As so many misstatements have been, and are being, made, I have no objection to stating what transpired at the meeting of the board.

"Later, Mr. Poidevin, the board's representative in England, attended the meeting, and in explaining the programme said that he had secured better terms from some of the counties than any previous Australian Eleven had ever received, that he had reduced the travelling by 50 per cent., that he had obtained special concessions from railway companies, and that the receipts of the two matches against Lancashire and Yorkshire combined would, he was certain, equal those of a test match.

"In reply to inquiries, he stated that the receipts of the tour would in a normal season amount to between £17,000 and £18,000, and if the tour was very successful, and was favoured by good weather, he thought that that amount would be exceeded. When the board was dealing with the question of the proceeds Mr. J. Creswell, one of the South Australian delegates, proposed that the team should go to England on the old conditions, share and share alike. The chairman, Mr. Barbour, said that he could not accept a motion in that form, because the board had no official knowledge of the conditions and terms under which previous Australian Elevens went to England. He, therefore, asked that the motion be submitted in another form, but this was not done.

"The motion before the chair was one by New South Wales, to the effect that the board should deduct 10 per cent. of the gross takings. An amendment was moved by South Australia, that the deduction should be 5 per cent. on the first £6000, and 10 per cent. on the balance. Both of these were, however, negatived, and a motion was proposed by Victoria that the deduction should be 5 per cent. on the first £6000, and 12½ per cent. on the balance, and that a match should be played in Sydney between the first and second teams before the team was finally chosen for England, the whole of the proceeds to be regarded as portion of the proceeds of the tour. This was carried.

"The board went carefully into the question of the amount that players would receive, and it was estimated that under this arrangement players would receive between £700 and £800 a man, or more if the tour was exceptionally successful. It was also estimated that the sum the board would take would be about £200, which really represented the amount of profits of the preliminary match in Sydney and the profits gained through a better programme and better arrangements made by Dr. Poidevin in conjunction with Mr. M'Elhone. A bear-up match was proposed in Sydney between men. But there was no difficulty regarding wheeling. Mr. Jackson and himself tried to show by every means in their power that 3d per ton was a reasonable thing, and that they could not go under it. Personally, he could not make any other arrangement even for a temporary period. Mr. Miller at first offered 1½d per ton. Then he came up to 2d. So far as he was personally concerned, Mr. Miller could not go beyond that, and they induced him to confer over the telephone with directors in Sydney, but they would not go above 2d a ton for wheeling. He pointed out to Mr. Miller that he could not disguise the fact that if they could not arrange the matter in a week or two he was afraid something of a very different character might occur, as the committee of management passed a resolution that in the event of no agreement being arrived at with South Greta Company, and the men being sent home by reason of the introduction of machines, the whole of the men cease work after a vote of the district had been taken. The meeting resolved to have nothing to do with wheeling in connection with shooting down and filling. The men went to work to-day, but as the manager declined to allow the machine bord to be included they refused to cavil for places, and in consequence are not likely to go to work on Monday.

STATEMENT BY NOBLE.

NO CONFERENCE OF PLAYERS YET.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

Referring to the statement made yesterday in Sydney that it was a great disappointment to Noble when he was beaten on the boat going across to New Zealand by Darling in the election of captain of the 1905 Australian Eleven, Noble says the captain was not elected on the way to New Zealand.

"The 'Sportsman' is the mouthpiece of the sporting public in England, and it is satisfactory to find that that great authority has expressed an opinion which is in keeping with that which the players of Australia have aimed at in regard to the attitude of the Board of Control."

"I notice," he added, "that it is stated that to stand out when on the threshold of the highest position a cricketer can attain in Australia will be a great wrench to me and my supporters. Well," he continued, "that only shows the justice of our case if I am prepared to stand out. At any rate, it is not a personal matter with me. I consider it rather a mean point to try to bolster up an untenable position by an unworthy reference to the public testimonial which was given to me as a recognition of what I had done for Australian cricket."

Noble denies that any conference of players was held to-day.

SHEEP KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

PARKES, Thursday.

During a thunderstorm on Monday, a number of sheep, belonging to Mr. W. Moss, of Hillview, were killed by lightning. The animals had taken refuge from the rain under a small pine tree, which was struck by the lightning.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

THE TOY LAND.

SCENES YESTERDAY.

HAVE THE CHILDREN CHANGED?

"They're going in more and more for sensible toys," said a shopwalker yesterday, "bicycles, and miniature motor cars, and submarine boats, and engines—that one time cost £3 3s for the engine alone, not counting the rails and the signal box, or the railway station and points and shunting yard and goods shed. Here's a mud dredge and a grain elevator—that's what they're going in for this year."

"How about dolls?"

"Oh, dolls are out," he said offhand.

"And bears?"

"Ah, well, bears, Teddy bears, are in great demand," he said. "Yes, they do go strong on Teddy bears."

So there is something of the child left in the children yet.

When the Sydney shops put up fingers pointing to "Fairyland," "Children's Paradise," "Garden of Wonders," in red letters this Christmas, they were not exaggerating.

They were only telling you truly what you found when you got there. Those wonderful windows, those glorious corners and counters are to-day in actual fact something really beyond the most rapturous daydreams of 15 years ago. It is not only that William Morris and a few others have hammered a little artistic sense into the average head without the average head being aware of it, so that the windows to-day are dressed as carefully as a picture is painted, but they are crammed with toys which simply stretch out both arms to anyone of an inquiring turn of mind.

"Tut, tut. We never had such things in my time," said the father of the family as he stuffed a submarine boat into the corner of his gladstone which was not already occupied by an express engine and tender, and a woolly monkey from Paris guaranteed to walk a tight rope. "A wooden doll was all we got.

We'd dream for a week about a rag doll, and take a set of ninepins to bed with us. The children in these days are pampered beyond all limit." The father of the family gazed longingly on a miniature hydraulic crane that was gently sending down a miniature bucket into the depths of a miniature harbour. "I don't know what our children are coming to, upon my word, I don't," he said as he wound the apparatus up again.

It was quite true that not only this shop but every other shop in Sydney seemed to be full of delightfully ingenious miniature engines and motor cars and warships.

As the father of the family sadly hitched on a second bucket to the crane, Tommy was tugging at his sleeve like a little hooked fish. "Farver, I say, farver," he said. But farver was colloquising over a windlass, and did not notice. Tommy's eyes were not on the windlass at all, nor on the engines, nor on the motor cars, nor even the jumping monkey. Up on the shelf, high in the corner behind this array of machinery, was a brown thing. It was misshapen, unwieldy, bulging of girth, bandylegged. It had the forehead of a criminal, and a protruding glass eye. But something in the colour, or some far off hint in the form, suggested that it was meant for a bear.

"Farver, I say, farver," Tommy reiterated, "ain't that a be-eautiful bey-ah?"

But farver was intent on bringing the second bucket safely to the crane platform without spilling the water.

"Ah, well," he sighed, "I suppose I shall have to buy it for them. But these modern children are simply ruinous."

So room was found for the crane in the last corner of the gladstone, and Tommy gave one last long, regretful, backward look at the woolly bey-ah, as the family disappeared into the next department.

They were all over the city yesterday—that family—several thousand times repeated.

"Turn on, muv-ver, turn on!" It was about 10.30 a.m. that one first heard Tommy urging his kind-hearted but somewhat bewildered parents and his small sister to the next wonderland that always lurked behind the next shop window but one, however glorious was the pageant displayed in the window which for the time happened to have been reached. The family generally went in line ahead with hands linked. Thomas served as a small pulling engine at the head of the procession. Small sister dragged like a sea anchor from the stern of it. Not that she was less interested than Thomas, but the third in the family that passed she followed with round eyes, and was dragged backwards and crabwise by the procession ahead, only being kept more or less in direction by cannoning off one passer-by on another and back again.

From 2 till 6 they raged with writing upon it; read it and then placed it in the fire, and to make sure that it would not blow about I ground the remains into the earth with my boot. The empty tin is now 20ft down the well, and the sovereigns are in my pocket. No one will know how there are, and no one will know what was written on the piece of paper. They are my property, as I bought everything about the building."

Mr. Walnwright, who made no secret about his find, said he had been 17 years in the business of buying old buildings and removing them, and though he had known of other people finding articles of value hidden away, he himself had never found anything of value before. There is an old grave on the premises, and the body buried therein is supposed to be that of an old male servant of the late Samuel Marsden, and whose great desire was to be laid at rest within the grounds of the parsonage. It is understood that when the grave is opened the remains will be transferred to St. John's Cemetery.

BARRIER WAGES.

REDUCTION REFUSED.

PREPARATION FOR ARBITRATION.

BROKEN HILL, Thursday.

The combined unions have decided not to accept the reduced wages offered by the Proprietory Company, and trouble may be expected from January 1. The letter notifying the intention of the Proprietary board was received by the combined unions last evening in terse language reported. This letter was considered and debated until a late hour, when the unions decided to instruct the secretary to write to the general manager of the Proprietary informing him that it was the intention of the combined unions to strongly advise the men against accepting work at the lower rate of wages on any of the mines which have not signed the agreement arrived at between the Mining Managers' Association and the combined unions, and that the unions view the intentions of the Proprietary Company, as stated in its correspondence, as constituting a lockout. It was decided also that Tom Mann's services be retained for a further period of one month, and a recommendation to the various unions was agreed upon as follows:—"That a levy of a shilling per member per fortnight be struck for two pays for the purpose of arbitration and organising expenses."

The unions also drew up a manifesto to the workers, which was issued this morning, viz.:—

"The workers on Broken Hill line of lode are hereby notified that no reduction of wages on those received during the past two years be accepted. Anyone doing so will violate union instructions, and jeopardise our future well-being. The wages for the Barrier must be not less than that agreed upon between the Mine Managers' Association and the combined unions at the conference of December, 1908. By order combined union committee, W. D. Barnett, hon. secretary."

The necessary steps to hurry on the appeal to the Arbitration Court will now be taken.

It is significant that the Proprietary mine horses have been turned out in the paddocks. A mass meeting has been called for Saturday and Sunday to consider the situation.

Block 10 notified its employees to-day that it will carry on current wages till January 15, after which the old rate of wages will come into force pending the decision of the Arbitration Court.

BACK IN THE SADDLE.

OLD-TIME JOCKEY ON TRACK.

It was somewhat reminsful of old times at Randwick yesterday to see the veteran jockey John Ramsay in the saddle. Ramsay rode the fine-looking Flavian colt Lord Hampton at steady work, and though many years have passed since the veteran was on the active service list, he has lost none of that natty style for which he was noted in his salad days. Back in the middle '70's Ramsay was at the head of his profession, and for a time was first jockey for Sir Hercules Robinson and Mr. E. De Mestre. One of the last good horses Ramsay rode was Navigator, in the Maribyrnong Plate of 1881, when he ran a dead heat for second place with Guesswork behind Segenhoe. Subsequently he retired from race-riding, and followed other occupations, but in recent years he returned to horse-training about Randwick, and though he was contemporary with Joe Morrison, James Ashworth, C. Stanley, Tom Brown, W. Yeomans, and George Donnelly, and was a seasoned jockey over 40 years ago, Ramsay looks as juvenile to-day as many men half his age. Ramsay won the St. Leger on Moselle for the late Mr. William Forrester, in 1876. Moselle was one of the first race-horses owned by the burly "Warwick Farmer."

MORE STOWAWAYS.

EIGHT CHINESE DISCOVERED.

ON THE STEAMER COURTFIELD.

ONLY A FEW HOURS IN HIDING.

The Customs officials yesterday afternoon succeeded in unearthing another batch of Chinese stowaways on board the steamer Courtfield, which had just arrived from Hongkong and Manila direct, and berthed at Prymont.

Since the sensational discovery of 20 Chinese on the E. and A. S.S. Company's steamer Eastern a few weeks ago, the authorities have redoubled their efforts, and vigilant searches are conducted on every vessel that arrives here from the East.

The Courtfield, a vessel of 4592 tons, has come here in ballast for docking, preparatory to loading a cargo of wheat for Europe. No sooner had she reached her wharf than she was boarded by a band of Customs searchers under Officer Cannell. The party was divided into two sections—one to guard the gangways and other places of exit, and the other to examine the steamer.

In a storeroom in the 'tween decks on the starboard side aft the officers came across eight men concealed among a quantity of dunnage, and covered by Chinese matting. The discovery was a chance one, nothing having been found to indicate the presence of human beings in that part of the ship. There was not a movement under the matting, and the eight men were huddled close together. On being dragged out they were lined up for examination. They proved to be all young men of a better stamp than the average run of stowaways, and they were all in excellent health. It was at once evident that these robust Chinese had been well fed on the voyage, and that they had not been long confined in the small compartment in which they were found.

Although two or three of the men could speak a few words of broken English, they were not familiar with the language, and evidently had never resided in a British country. The finger-prints of the eight men were taken by the Customs officials, and the stowaways were then handed over to the charge of the ship's officers to be returned to Hongkong.

The men were promptly locked up in one of the cabins for safe keeping. The ship's officers as well as the whole of the members of the crew were questioned by the Customs officials, but all stated that they were unaware of the presence of the stowaways. From the fact that the matting with which the men were covered had been fumigated on entering the port, it is regarded as certain that the stowaways did not enter their place of concealment until the vessel was on her way up the harbour.

Under the provisions of the Stowaways Act just passed by the Federal Parliament, the owner of a vessel is liable to a fine of £100 for every alien stowaway found on his vessel.

TIN OF SOVEREIGNS.

CONTRACTOR'S LUCKY FIND.

THE SECRET OF THE BURNT DOCUMENT.

Some short time back the old buildings of St. John's Parsonage, Parramatta, now better known as The Cedars (the historic old residence of the late Rev. Samuel Marsden), were sold, and the contractor, Mr. Wainwright, has been busily engaged dismantling. On Wednesday the contractor made a lucky find when he was engaged removing the flooringboards in one of the front rooms. A short length of tongue-and-groove board, 2ft or 3ft away from the fireplace, was loose, and it was here the find was made. The contractor said:—

"My pickhead happened to fall off, and in stooping to get it my eye fell on what looked like a baking-powder tin, just under the joist. I picked the tin up, and was about to throw it to my mate when I noticed that it was rather heavy. A gentleman named Ward was watching operations. He saw me pick up the tin. I took the lid off in front of him. On top was a piece of cheesecloth, old and worn, and underneath a piece of brown paper. On removing them I beheld gold sovereigns. I immediately replaced the lid, and put the tin in my trousers pocket. When by myself I emptied the sovereigns out. At the bottom of the tin was a piece of paper with writing upon it. I read it and then placed it in the fire, and to make sure that it would not blow about I ground the remains into the earth with my boot. The empty tin is now 20ft down the well, and the sovereigns are in my pocket. No one will know how there are, and no one will know what was written on the piece of paper. They are my property, as I bought everything about the building."

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CHRISTMAS CHEER.

WELCOME SURPRISES.

Last Wednesday there was given Christmas cheer at the mission room, Margaret-street, Redfern, to the women who have been attending this hall. Seventy-three bags containing articles useful and edible, making three large trunks closely packed, were delivered at the hall. At 3 p.m., the room being filled, tea was provided, and then came the presentation of the surprise bags, prepared according to the number in the family. After this it was announced, as a still greater surprise, that Mr. George Faithful desired that £50 be distributed as a Christmas-box amongst those women who attended on that particular day. There were 49 adults and 2 girls to share in this gift. At the close of the proceedings each woman, as she left the hall, received in a small envelope her Christmas-box; adults received £1, the two girls 10s each. Gratitude and astonishment at such Christmas goodwill brought tears into the eyes of the recipients, which seemed somewhat infectious among the visitors. The women subscribed to the District Nurses' Association, amounting to the sum of 16s 8d, which was duly handed over to the district nurse.

The doorway of St. Paul's rectory, Redfern, was crowded yesterday and on Wednesday, and it took several hours to decide on all the cases. The great majority, who were mostly known, were helped, and others, chiefly the sick, had orders posted to them. About 55s in all were helped. In the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening, Mrs. Boyce entertained at tea about 60 poor women, who were connected with the Hudson-street Mission Hall. Mrs. E. J. Burgess and friends entertained about 50 poor women in the Rosehill-street Mission Hall. With great generosity a gentleman who was there, not connected with the parish, gave each woman present a sovereign. Last evening there was a Christmas-tree in the same hall.

The women's mission connected with the Whitefield Congregational Church, Castlereagh-street, after personal investigation, provided and gave Christmas dinners for between 60 and 70 needy families in the city, and tea for a large number in the Protestant Hall.

About 100 families known to the workers of the Sussex-street Mission received each a large parcel of groceries, and an order on the butcher, through the efforts of those connected with the Pitt-street Congregational Church. On Tuesday evening the children of the mission enjoyed a Christmas tree provided by friends from Mosman Congregational Church.

Through the St. Andrew's Cathedral Mission, on Monday last, parcels of groceries and orders on the butcher were distributed to 25 of the poor mothers of the Cathedral district, and on Wednesday evening, in the mission room, over 50 old and young people enjoyed carols and a distribution of bon-bons, lollies, and toys.

The board of the Eddy Memorial Railway and Tramway Orphan Fund has received the following donations toward Christmas cheer for the widows and orphans:—Sir H. Rawson, £1 1s; Mr. Justice Charles J. Heydon, £1 1s; Mr. Hugh Dixson, £2 2s; Wood and Dixson, 10s; John Goodlet, £1 1s; Mr. R. B. Orchard, 10s 6d; Mr. Harry Rickards, £2; Mr. J. Harper, 10s. Voluntary subscriptions are thankfully received. Christmas relief to the amount of £33, and monthly relief to £27 2s 6d, has been issued during December.

The children's ward at the Sydney Hospital presented a very pretty picture last evening, when the Christmas tree—the gift of Dr. Herschel Harris—was lit up. The delight of the children reached its climax when Nurse Rutledge, dressed as Santa Claus, made her appearance and began to distribute the toys. The little ones struggled hard to keep awake, but soon they were fast asleep with their toys firmly held in their arms.

NEW ZEALAND.

AN ELECTION PETITION.

WELLINGTON, Thursday.

Mr. Barclay, who was defeated at the last election for Dunedin North, is petitioning for the poll to be set aside or for a new election.

KAIPARA'S WOOL CARGO.

The Kaipara, which sails for London this evening, carries 14,000 bales of wool for the second series of the London sales in March.

UNION OF CHRISTENDOM.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S MISSION.

FRIVOLITY AND DETERIORATION.

HAY, Thursday.

The Bishop of Riverina and Mrs Anderson were welcomed at a meeting of the Church of England parishioners on their return from the Pan-Anglican Congress and Lambeth Conference last night. The Bishop, in the course of an interesting address, said amongst other things that one thing which the congress had brought home to them was the possibility of the Church acting as mediator in bringing about the union of Christendom. The Church of England seemed peculiarly fitted to bring Christianity together. Once more they all deplored the moral, physical, and monetary waste caused by the divisions in the Church and the multiplicity of sects. To think of union, to talk of it, to write about it, was to go some way towards bridging the gulf. The Church of England had an opportunity of being the mediator, the meeting ground of all sects. He did not say that in any proud or boastful spirit, because he believed it. It was slow work. It must be slow work, but he believed it would come about. He regretted to say that churchgoing in England was not what it might be by any means. If they took the whole of England they would be forced to confess that the attendances were not what they should be, especially in view of the beautifully attractive services and the more than moderate preaching. The people were not now as good churchgoers as when he knew England six and twenty years ago. He attributed it to the fact that they were living in a frivolous age of week-end parties, people were rushing from their parishes, and neglecting the duty of churchgoing. The people had not time to think what that sort of thing was tending to. It could not go on for ever without bringing out deterioration of the race. The evil was not only in England, it was in Australia, and he had referred to it before. It was little consolation to know that other nations were experiencing the same thing. If that frivolity, that materialism, that want of thought, continued, the nation was bound to suffer. People were beginning to see the folly of all this worldliness. The congress called attention to it, the people talked about it, and the press wrote about it. He was hopeful that the congress would have a marked effect on the national backsliding.

CASUALTIES.

FELL SEVENTY FEET.

James Dearman, living in Redfern-street, Redfern, while working on the new building at the University yesterday, fell from a scaffold, and dropped a distance of 70ft. He sustained injuries to the back and head, and was removed to Prince Alfred Hospital, and admitted in a critical condition.

RUN OVER BY A SULKY.

HAY, Thursday.

Mrs. Abbey, a milkvendor, living at South Hay, was about to enter her sulky when her foot slipped on the step, and she fell. The horse moving forward at the same time caused the wheel to pass over one of her legs near the ankle. The leg was badly broken.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

MURWILLUMBAH, Thursday.

A man named William Gray attempted to cut his throat at Chinderah on Wednesday. The injuries inflicted were not serious, as the knife was very blunt. He has been remanded for eight days.

RAILWAY SHUNTER INJURED.

MURRURUNDI, Thursday.

A railway shunter named Richard Walters had the toes of his right foot completely severed this morning. While attempting to jump on the step of the engine his foot slipped and went under the wheels. The ankle was much crushed, and amputation may be necessary.

SAWMILL BURNT DOWN.

NOWRA, Thursday.

Watt and Mathie's saw mill at Tomerong was destroyed by fire last night. The origin of the fire is unknown. The property was insured.

FIRE IN KING-STREET.

At a little before 8 p.m. yesterday the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were called to a fire which had broken out in the Balfour Hotel, at the corner of King and Elizabeth streets. Flames, which are supposed to have been caused by the contact of a candle with curtains, were put out without much trouble by the inmates with buckets of water. Headquarters, Darlinghurst, Circular Quay, and Cumberland street stations attending. Mr. Paul Keig (45), the proprietor of the hotel, was slightly burnt about the hands, and a back bedroom on the second floor was, with its contents, damaged by fire and water.

BUTCHERS' WAGES BOARD.

AWARD FIXED.

The Butchers' Retail Wages Board, which has been sitting lately at the Water Police Court to determine the rates of wages and conditions of labour to govern the trade, has now made its award.

This provides for a 59 hours' working week, with half a day off on Wednesdays. One apprentice is to be allowed for every three men employed, and their pay is to be as follows:—

First year, 12s 6d per week.
Second year, 17s 6d per week.
Third year, 27s 6d per week.
Fourth year, 37s 6d per week.
Fifth year, 45s per week.

The award also provides that the minimum wages payable to employees shall be as follows:—First shopman, £3 5s per week; second shopman, £2 17s 6d; other shopmen, £2 12s 6d; smallgoodsman, £3 5s; salter, £3 5s; carter and assistant, £2 10s; carter only, £2 5s; scalders, £2 12s 6d. Other employees not specified (not including men doing white-washing or general work, provided they shall not cut or assist in cutting any meat), £2 10s per week.

Men employed in driving cutting carts shall be classified as first shopmen, and be paid not less than £3 5s per week.

A cooker shall not be paid less than £2 15s per week.

A Friday and Saturday man shall not exceed 23 hours' work, and be paid not less than 30s for the two days.

A Saturday man shall be paid 17s 6d for the day, or part of a day.

Casual labour shall be paid not less than 10s per day for Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, 12s 6d for Fridays, and 17s 6d for Saturdays, or part thereof.

Where two shopmen are employed, one shall be classed as a first shopman and paid not less than £3 5s per week, not to exceed 59 hours per week.

Where three shopmen or more are employed, one shall be classed as a second shopman and paid not less than £2 17s 6d per week, not to exceed 59 hours per week.

Any employee in charge of a shop or branch shop shall be classed as a first shopman and paid not less than £3 5s per week, not to exceed 59 hours per week.

With regard to the union's claim for preference to unionists, the award provides that any employee after joining a firm must become a member of the union within two weeks of his being employed.

The area in which the award will be binding is:—Commencing at the eastern boundary of Manly, thence in a north-easterly direction to Hornsby, thence in a south-westerly direction to Sutherland, and thence to the north-eastern headland of Botany Bay, and thence to the point of commencement.

The award will remain in operation for two years, commencing from January 4 next.

STATE IMMIGRATION.

NEWCASTLE LABOUR COUNCIL LETTERS.

NEWCASTLE, Thursday.

Following on its recent protests against the immigration policy of the State Government the Newcastle Labour Council has now issued a circular letter, which is being forwarded to other States, warning intending immigrants from coming to this State. The letter states that fictitious reports have been published, alleging a scarcity of skilled labour in Australia and more particularly in New South Wales, and it is desired to warn immigrants against the enticing but misleading advertisements. It is stated that there is no difficulty in obtaining land for agricultural purposes, it being quite a common occurrence to see hundreds of applicants for the few acres which are from time to time offered by the Government for selection. The council had been interviewed by a number of immigrants, who have had unhappy experiences in roaming the country looking for work, and they complained bitterly of the misrepresentations and callous treatment shown them by the Government on their arrival in Sydney. In Newcastle the amount of labour offering, both skilled and otherwise, has been greatly in excess of the demand for the past 12 months. On the one hand it is alleged there are skilled tradesmen and artisans doing work as wharf labourers and coal trimmers (which was altogether unfitted for them), and on the other hand the Government, backed up by the capitalist, is booming the prosperity of the State and endeavouring to get a larger population under the plea of scarcity of labour by wild and rabid misrepresentations. The council therefore desired the true state of affairs to be made known.

SUPPLIES FOR THE EAST.

POINTS FOR EXPORTERS.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Perry, is in receipt of a communication from Mr. J. H. Suttor, Commissioner for Trade in the East, wherein he points out that the authorities controlling the constabulary and other bodies requiring regular food supplies usually make half-yearly contracts. These contracts are invariably short-dated, and when they are called in in most instances there is no time to admit of samples being sent from Sydney, and it is a condition in connection with such contracts that samples of the articles upon which bids are made must be submitted by the party tendering.

Mr. Suttor states it is, therefore, necessary for people here who are interested in beef, salmon, bacon, potatoes, onions, flour, milk, fruits, etc, to get into touch with local agents in Sydney in order that the necessary samples may be available when the next contract is advertised. Mr. Suttor also points out that on November 1 last tenders were called by the Director of Prisons at Melbourne, and the sealed tenders had to be in by November 30. And, proposals for the next contract will probably further state that the next contract will probably be advertised about May next.

NEW ZEALAND YEAR BOOK.

The New Zealand Year Book for 1908 is, as usual, well compiled. The statistical information is full, and has a reputation for accuracy. The total estimated population of the Dominion is now about a million, to which the Maoris contribute under 50,000. Nearly 100,000 persons have been added to the population by excess of arrivals over departures in the period 1892-1907. During the latter year New Zealand gained a thousand inhabitants at the expense of Australia; and of the 50,000 added in five years about two-thirds came from the Commonwealth. Of the thirds came from the Commonwealth. Of the thirds came from Great Britain to Australasia, it is estimated New Zealand is taking one-sixth—more than her fair proportion. It is interesting to note that during the year over 1600 persons qualified for free technical instruction under the Act of 1904. At the last return there were over 5000 technical and continuation classes in operation in association with nearly a thousand primary and secondary schools. In addition, technical classes were being held at 78 different places. The system of "free pupils" by endowed secondary schools of "free pupils" by endowed secondary schools seems to be working well, and has been greatly extended. Under the Divorce Law of 1898 there has been a steady rise in petitions for dissolution of marriage. These numbered 112 in 1899, and 207 in 1906. A fair guide to the steady growth of trade is the increase in tonnage of shipping, of which a striking graphic diagram is given. Another evidence of prosperity is to be found in the amount to the credit of depositors in the savings banks, which at the end of 1907 amounted to nearly thirteen millions sterling. The volume has several very informing special articles on such topics as the Land System, Old-age Pensions, State Fire Insurance, and Rating on Unimproved Value of Land.

TRAINED NURSES.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

The following is the pass list for New South Wales and Tasmania of the final examination for membership of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association, held on December 8 and following days:—

General Nurses, Bertha Asher, M. H. Barry, Lottie L. Bayfield, Mary F. Broomfield, Phyllis Clare Burton, Alice F. Burton, M. Bunzli, Lucinda M. Cleverly, Lilian Clarke, M. G. Daley, Jessie M. Dalgleish, M. R. Darrigan, Elizabeth Dalzell, M. B. Doherty, M. Ka, Fay, Victoria May Fry, M. P. Gannon, Florence Gallagher, M. A. Glasheen, Ida Graham, M. M. Goodwin, Emily B. Gwynne, M. D. Grace, M. M. Harney, M. P. Harney, Agnes Hall, Nellie Hill, Ethel Holland, Nellie Howard, Ida F. Hughes, M. C. Jobb, Elizabeth Kearey, M. K. Kealy, Maude Kenny, M. L. Kelly, Margot Le Quesne, Aileen G. Long, Mary H. C. Macgregor, Margaret T. M'Killop, Hannah M'Lachlan, May Mansfield, Amy Matthews, Jean Mollison, Nell Nicholson Morrison, Cordelia Newth, M. B. O'Connor, Ivy Evelyn Parker, Elsie C. Pidgeon, M. M. Power, Ruby Primrose, Emma M. Rathbone, Ida C. Smith, M. P. Stephens, Florence M. Steer, Winifred D. Stevenson, M. P. Stuttard, Daisy Booth Alice Horgan, Ethel R. Humphreys, Zara J. Jochan, Sarah J. Kelly, Alice M. King, Zuti A. Lade, Janet Lawless, Sarah D. Macpherson, Lilian Mary Nixon, Amelia Nowland, Elizabeth Oldham, Nora O'Neill, Esther Peck, C. A. Petersen, Georgina T. F. Primrose, Alice Stammer, Emma C. Smith, Evelyn Smith, Amelia H. Stone, Jennie Stuart, Annie Walshaw, Mary Young.

The House of Lords heard a lady speak for the third time in its history on November 10, when Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., accompanied by four other women graduates of Scottish Universities, presented before the Supreme Court of Appeal their claim to be allowed to vote in the Parliamentary elections of the Scottish Universities. They contend that the word "persons" in the Act of Parliament does not exclude women. The case was adjourned.

SPORTING.

THE TURF.

The following race meetings have been registered by the A.J.C.:—Bemboka Jockey Club, January 9; Yamble Amateur Race Club, January 22; Barwon Amateur Turf Club, April 28 and 29; Narrandera Friendly Societies' Race Meeting, January 28.

Messrs. H. Chisholm and Co. have transferred the lease of Bushgrove from E. Huxley to Herbert Fielder, and have extended it to August 1, 1909.

While schooling over the hurdles at Randwick on Wednesday, the imported son of Galinule, Dowdingstown, met with injuries that will keep him in hospital for some time. Dowdingstown fell over a hurdle, and gave his rider, Howard, a rough fall. The horse, however, came out of the fray with the muscles of one shoulder badly injured.

The general entries for the Australian Jockey Club's Anniversary Meeting close with the secretary of the A.J.C. or V.R.C. at 4 p.m. on January 5.

SCRATCHINGS.

The following scratchings were yesterday recorded at the A.J.C. office:—

Christmas Handicap.—Miss Noble, The Empire, Rhoebus.

Nursery Handicap.—Jealousy.

Flying Handicap.—The Irishman.

The scratchings in connection with Tattersall's meeting were:—

All Engagements.—Gaby and Irishman.

THE MORNING GALLOPS.

About 20 feet of the outer part of Randwick course proper was at the disposal of trainers yesterday morning for fast work, and one of the earliest to test the track, which was in favour of the watch, was Leuron, who ran six furlongs in 1m 19s; and a little later Roubie and Banquo got over a furlong further in 1m 53s. Monobel ran a mile nicely in 1m 51s, and Fitzwur got over half that in moderate time. Alteration badly beat Footpad over a short course, then Graftnot and Rocklight ran a mile and a quarter in 2m 21s. Host started off in front of this pair and made pace for them for nine furlongs, where he had much the best of the arguments but pulled off. Blue Hook and Xanthippus left half a mile behind in 51s, and Maltchester, with all the worst of the weights, reversed Tuesday's form by beating Acrospire over five furlongs in 1m 5s. Merry and Golden Slipper worked usefully over six furlongs, as did Mallinc. Rose Bay shaped well over seven furlongs, running the last six in 1m 21s, while King Berry and Shemeen were extended for six furlongs in 1m 21s. Volga, who was minus her shoes, beat Glade and Mountain Maid by many lengths over seven furlongs, which were left behind in 1m 32⅘s. Plunder was let off with half a mile, which he ran in 51⅘s, then Apple Pie shortened over the Scotch Collar Course in a run from the half-mile post, which occupied 52⅘s. Divested of her shoes, Necia knocked off half a mile in 51s, and Consulate had much more to say than Hela at the end of six furlongs, run in 1m 20⅘s. Patronatus beat a friend over five furlongs in 1m 4⅘s, a distance which Kittie ran in 1m 5s. Carrying Connell, Welcome Trist decisively defeated Proportion and Trentmoon, who each carried light boys, over a mile and a quarter in 2m 17⅘s, the best gallop of the morning on the grass. War Bee contributed the usual short spurt, and his stable mate, Ungarie, ran five furlongs in 1m 6s. Potosi, Gravelotte, and By Play ran half a mile leisurely, and Call Boy easily ran five furlongs in 1m 8s. Sucre and a friend ran half a mile in 51⅘s, while Squires and Maltha ran a furlong further in 1m 7⅘s.

Florance and Contango travelled seven furlongs at a useful pace, and Epois beat Rayner over six in 1m 21s. Malteur got over a mile in 1m 48s, and Copperdop did a long gallop. Senarious knocked off half a mile in 52⅘s, and at the end of five furlongs, run in 1m 7s, Rose of Lancaster easily held Nandillyan Maid, while Borodino galloped five furlongs in 1m 5s. Maintenon, Mait Royal, and Three Cheers finished half a mile apart, as did Ruth with several lengths between each, in 51s, and Myra Bluan, carrying light shoes and a lightweight (J. E. Pike), bowled over five furlongs in 1m 3s. Sir Aymer patronised the tan, and ran nine furlongs on it in 2m 3s. He was assisted over the last six furlongs by Hawea, and accounted for the concluding mile in 1m 46s. This imported son of Sir Hugo was distinctly lame as he returned to his box. After cantering slowly for a time on the inside sand, Exsul was stretched along for a working gallop on the tan, and though he limped as he walked back he was not so lame as he walked last week. Neith beat Kabibinokka over six furlongs on the tan in 1m 18⅘s, Virtu following over the same course in 1m 18s. Lord Fitzoy, with his usual working mate, Adriatic, to assist, accounted for a mile and a furlong, while Victoria Cross the last eight in 1m 58s, while Victoria Cross and Pitfall got over six furlongs in 1m 19s, and Claribella shaped badly with Woolloomooloo in a six-furlong spin. Others to work usefully were Minister and Vanadium.

VICTORIAN SPORTING NOTES.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

The following scratchings were recorded today in connection with the Caulfield races to be held on Saturday:—Koorang Welter, Dunolly; Shoobra Hurdle, Lady Carrick.

BRISBANE RACES.

BRISBANE, Thursday.

The Brisbane Jockey Club's Christmas meeting was opened this afternoon. There was a good attendance, and £514 passed through the totalisator. The principal race meeting was:—

Park.—Hob Roy, 8st 5lb (Byrne), 1; Comforter, 8st 5lb (Hayes) 2; Cissy, 9st 9lb (Mullen), 3. Other starters: Havilah, Forsure, Sheen. Betting: Even money on Cissy, 4 to 1 Sheen, 5 to 1 v Havilah, 7 to 1 v Forsure, 10 to 1 each v others. Won by a length and a half, with two lengths between second and third. Time, 1m 46⅘s. Dividend, £3 13s.

TATTERSALL'S CLUB.

FINAL ACCEPTANCES.

The following are the final acceptances for TATTERSALL'S CLUB CUP.—2m.

	st	lb		st	lb
Pharos	8	11	Duma	6	12
Welcome Trist	8	7	King Bee	6	12
Exsul	8	5	Exsul	6	10
Florance	7	13	Trentmoon	6	6
Proportion	7	10	Rocklight	6	7
Karaweak	7	9	Maltcer	6	7
Simnilouist	7	8			

ORANGE JOCKEY CLUB.

ORANGE, Thursday.

The following are the nominations for the principal events at the Orange Jockey Club's New Year meeting:—

Opening Handicap.—Sampson Brass, Allah Akbar, Terese, Marvel Lawn, Corn Lynn, Theodon, Lord Jersey, St. Louis, Jeannie Cameron, Malgars, Boree, Lady Claris, Nicetus.

New Year's Gift.—Corona, Keen, Arapiles, Little Light, Treocia, Thona, Berry Moss, Sir Grafton Lochiel, Volta, Redway, Lady Alice, Guidman, Margaloma.

Watson Plate.—Corona, Keen, Arapiles, Little Light, Treocia, Thona, Berry Moss, Sir Grafton Lochiel, Lady Claris, Redway, Lady Alice, Guidman, Nicetus.

GOLF.

THE NEW RULES.

The rules of golf committee (says an English exchange) have passed the final revision of the new rules of golf as authorised by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, at their autumn meeting. The committee very wisely issued the draft copies of the proposed rules to the press, and invited criticism, and they were thus enabled to embody suggestions from golfers not only in this country, but also from America, with the result that the new rules will receive the almost unanimous approbation of golfers throughout the golf world.

CRICKET.

INTERSTATE JUNIORS' PROGRAMME.

The following programme of entertainment has been arranged for the visit of the Victorian and South Australian juniors:—

THE VICTORIAN TEAM.

December 25.—Arrive by the Melbourne express and steamer, to be met by junior officials.

December 26.—Match v New South Wales on Sydney Sports Ground, 10.30 a.m. Official welcome at luncheon (1 p.m.).

December 28.—Match continued, 10.30 a.m. Evening to visiting players at Mr. Murphy's residence, Kensington.

December 29.—Theatre party to be arranged.

December 30.—Match v Combined Juniors at Waverley oval, 2 p.m. Also Combined Juniors v Wyalong Goldfields C.A., Rushcutter Bay, 2 p.m.

December 31.—Harbour excursion (leaving Fort Macquarie 2 p.m.), South Australian visitors also attending.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TEAM.

December 26.—Players arrive Melbourne express, to be met by junior officials. Theatre party to be arranged.

December 31.—Harbour excursion, and official reception.

January 1.—Match v New South Wales, on Sydney Sports Ground, 10.30 a.m. Evening to visiting players at Mr. Stone's residence, Waverley.

January 2.—Match continued, 10.30 a.m.

January 4.—Moonlight harbour excursion, leaving Fort Macquarie 8 p.m., both teams.

NORTHERN SUBURBS ASSOCIATION.

The following players will represent the Northern Suburbs' Cricket Association at Lithgow on Christmas and Boxing Days:—T. M'Mahon, W. J. M'Mahon, A. Khan, Mayo, Walker, R. Carroll, Gavin, Johnson, Desaix, Briggs, and M'Donald. W. Burke, manager.

MOORE PARK C.A.

The following have been selected to meet the Centennial Park C.A. at Redfern oval on New Year's Day, play beginning at 10 a.m.:—H. Jackson (Carlton), J. Gallett and J. Scott (St. David's), W. Lemon (Enoch Taylor), W. Kneeshaw (St. James'), R. M'Lean (Victoria Park), J. M'Millan (Ward's), 12; G. M'Whine (B.A.P.), 13; R. Chapman (Sydney Juniors), 14. The team will be managed by Mr. J. Taylor. Anyone unable to play should so inform Mr. A. S. Ivory.

WESTERN SUBURBS CHURCHES C.U.

The following will represent Western Suburbs Churches' Union against Liverpool district at Liverpool on Boxing Day:—A. B. Chave, L. B. Gordon, J. Norton, H. Gelding, H. C. Byrne (Dulwich Hill Holy Trinity), W. Brogden (St. Clement's), R. Wickham, D. Cullen (Stanmore Presbyterian), W. Dakin (Dulwich Hill Congregational), R. Boutar, W. Sheather (St. James').

The following will represent Western Suburbs Churches' Union (combined "B" grade) v Balmain and District C.A. "B" on Boxing Day at Birchgrove Oval, No. 2 wicket:—S. Barrymore (captain), F. Louder (Newtown Baptist), W. Clemow, H. G. Price (Newtown Methodist), W. Brown, G. M'Kenzie (St. James'), T. Noble, L. Braddock (St. Stephen's), W. Sparkes (Croydon Park Methodist), G. Findlay, T. East (Lewisham Methodist). Emergencies: Batemen, W. Sheather (St. James'), F. Eaton (St. Enoch's); bowlers, A. N. Briggs (Newtown Methodist), B. Tanner (Newtown Baptist). Beginning at 10 a.m.

The following is the result of the first day's play of the eighth round of matches played in connection with the above union:—

A Grade.

St. Peter's C. of E., 75, v Dulwich Hill Holy Trinity, seven for 223 (J. Norton 112, F. Hope 41, L. B. Gordon 40 not out). Bowling for Holy Trinity: L. B. Gordon, six for 31.

Petersham Presbyterian, 44, and seven for 41 (Smith 27 not out), v Marrickville Congregational, 86 (Robertson 24). Bowling for Congregational: Robertson nine for 30, Phillips seven for 36. Petersham Presbyterian forfeited at the conclusion of the day's play.

Marrickville Presbyterian, 78 (Childs 28, Adam 25), v St. Clement's C. of E., seven for 146 (Hehir 70, Prince 32). Bowling for St. Clement's: Brogden four for 28.

Warren Methodist, 109 (Everingham 61), v Dulwich Hill Congregational, four for 143 (Watson 44, Lawrence 42, Pryer 29, Miller 25). Bowling for Congregational: Dakin three for 0.

Newtown Baptist, 175 (Tinker 28, Brewer 24 not out, F. Louder 21), v Erskineville Holy Trinity 63 (Schafer 30). Bowling for Baptist: F. Jones three for 10, A. Jones three for 12.

Newtown Methodist, 67, and three for 57, v Dulwich Hill Holy Trinity 8, 104 (H. Morgan 27). Bowling for Holy Trinity: Larson, four for 4, Clifton three for 33.

Croydon Park Methodist, 111 (W. H. Smythe 29), v St. James' C. of E., seven for 101 (G. Mackenzie 24, Brown 20).

All Saints' C. of E., 116 (Calver 25, Asprey 25), v St. Stephen's C. of E., seven for 116 (T. Noble 44, Stevens 26). Bowling for St. Stephen's: D. Burrell five for 23, England three for 7.

Stanmore Methodist, 44, and three for 42, v Campsie Methodist, 90.

Marrickville Congregational, 10, v St. Enoch's, six for 102 (Wallace 71, Miller 46 not out, Noble 22 not out).

Kingston Methodist, 116 (Banfield 32 not out), v Leichhardt Methodist, five for 178 (Findlay 59, Enoch ley 51 not out, Levy 34).

St. Peter's C. of E. B, 183 (Richardson 54, A. Witcombe 48, F. Witcombe 24), v St. Clement's C. of E. B, nine for 85 (Turner 23).

Tempe Park Methodist received a forfeit from Dulwich Hill Congregational.

Marrickville Methodist, 117 (H. Twist 22), v Croydon Congregational, 86 (Spendelove 24). Bowling for Congregational: C. Harris four for 14; whilst for Methodist, A. Bradley took seven for 21.

The following will represent Western Suburbs Churches' Union on Christmas afternoon v Petersham Presbyterian:—C. Harris (captain), F. Jones, A. Grant, W. Brogden, G. S. Travis (St. Clement's), L. B. Gordon, J. Norton (Dulwich Hill Holy Trinity), F. Biggs (Marrickville Congregational), W. Dakin (Dulwich Hill Congregational), R. Boutar, W. Sheather (St. James'), F. Eaton (St. Enoch's); bowlers, A. N. Briggs (Newtown Methodist), B. Tanner (Newtown Baptist). Emergencies: Batemen, W. Sheather (St. James'), F. Eaton (St. Enoch's); bowlers, A. N. Briggs (Newtown Methodist), B. Tanner (Newtown Baptist). Beginning at 10 a.m.

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BOWLS.

RANDWICK CLUB.

A large gathering of members of the Randwick Bowling Club, and bowlers from other clubs, took place on the green—President versus Vice-president—and the former's team won by one point, the totals being 147 and 146. At night a dinner was given in the club's pavilion to about 70 bowlers. The chair was occupied by the president of the club, Mr. F. G. Crouch, and the vice-chair by Mr. David Storey. The usual toasts were proposed: "The King," "Our Guests," "The Sydney Bowling Association," "Visiting Bowlers," "The Past, Present, and Future of the Randwick Club (Mr. A. A. Lewis)," "Ex-president and Randwick's Parliamentary Representative (Mr. David Storey)," and "The Chairman".

VICTORIA PARK CLUB.

Victoria Park v Masonic Club, at Victoria Park.

	V.P.	Mas.
Packer, Willings, Purves, Young	26	
Marsh, Conny, King, Fullwood		21
Thorne, Johnston, Bladwell, Wilkie	41	
Hockey, Goodwin, Patrick, Cooper	11	
Bennetts, Davies, Lane, Banwick	15	
Rowell (sub.), Bull (sub.), Leiten, Rose		22
	82	54

Totals 82 54

Victoria Park won by 28 points.

The green will be open on Boxing Day, and the first and second rounds of the competition for the president and vice-president's pairs, respectively, will be played off.

ST. GEORGE CLUB.

The holiday season at the St. George green will be devoted to the playing off of various backward heats in the Alderson Mystery (sealed handicap) and the Jubilee Tournament.

On Wednesday night at the reopening of the green under the electric light, Mr. J. S. Labatette (ex-president) was presented with a framed enlargement, which was afterwards hung with others in the clubhouse. Mr. Alec. Louden, hon. secretary, was also the recipient of an illuminated address from a number of bowlers who owed their success to his tuition and encouragement.

Other prizes presented were the Larbalestier lady's bracelet, won by G. Gowen; lady's diamond ring, won by F. Lee; championship, Mr. Kinsela; billiard trophies, H. D. Nolan and W. Amery; the G.-wen Cup, R. J. Louden, A. Garden, H. E. Butchart, and W. Taylor. A rink competition, played during the evening, was won by Messrs. Laue, Wyatt, Kinsela.

On New Year's Eve the South Australian bowlers are to be the guests of St. George. Matches will be played during the day and evening.

St. George Club have decided to offer a substantial trophy for a pairs tournament open to the district. Play at night will continue on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, when inter-club matches can be arranged.

LAWN TENNIS.

THE DAVIS CUP.

Mr. T. H. Hicks, hon. secretary of the Australasian Lawn Tennis Association, has received a letter from Mr. Mewburn, of the English association, intimating that New Zealand had applied for recognition as a separate nation for purposes of the Davis Cup competition. Mr. Mewburn points out that the communication was before his council on October 26, and it was decided to obtain the views of the Australasian association. It was pointed out that no alteration of the rule bracketing Australia and New Zealand must be made, except on a two-thirds majority vote of the nations concerned.

It has been known for some time that New Zealand wished to cut the painter.

CYCLING AND MOTORING.

MOTOR CYCLING AWARDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—The awards of the Pioneer Motor Cycling Club have always been awaited with patience, and on arrival have always been open to very strong comment. The result of Saturday's competition is beyond all jokes. The entry form asked for and the officials were particular that the bore and stroke of the engine and h.p. of same should be given; but, according to the formula used (as mentioned in your paper of the 22nd inst.) these two important items were not taken into consideration. So, after a conference with prominent motor officials, and in my own close reading of all contests given in the different motor papers, have come across a formula which did not take into consideration the relative h.p. of the engine used. I ask, why get these particulars if the committee know they are not going to use them? Why should competitors be put to the bother of sending in the h.p. to be considered when the formula prohibits their use? Let me point out two glaring inconsistencies. Moto-Reve and Indian are both 7-h.p. Moto-Reve occupy the same time, namely, 31 seconds. Ask the ordinary man in the street which is the better performance, and every time he would say the 7-h.p. Not so with our experts. They have everything upside down, and say the 6-h.p. performance is the better by .82. Again, a 3½ Triumph does 29 seconds, a 5½ N.S.U. takes 36 seconds, but the committee, after much labour, awards the first prize to the 5½-h.p. by 2.30 points. Is it any wonder that the popular sport of motor cycling is on the wane? If motor cycling is to flourish as it should in this State, as it is doing in the other States and on the Continent, it will have to get into the hands of practical men. Until then, and I think the Cyclist Union would be wise to take this new and popular sport under their wing.

I am, etc., AN OLD CYCLIST.

ROWING.

SCULLING CHAMPIONSHIP.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir,—A day or two ago Mr. M'Intosh cabled R. Arnst, asking his terms to row Barry on the Thames. For what reason this course should be taken I cannot understand, as the holder is fully entitled to row in his own country, and therefore his challenger should come out and take it (if he can). As far as trying to make terms, why should the people of this side of the water be debarred from seeing the race rowed in New Zealand or New South Wales? I trust an abler pen than mine will deal with the matter, and that R. Arnst's supporters will not let him go.

I am, etc., JUSTICE.

SAILING.

A VALUABLE TROPHY.

The handsome shield presented to the St. George Sailing and Motor Boat Club by the commodore (Mr. A. Stuart) has arrived in Sydney, and is now being exhibited at

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

The Stock and Share market closed quietly yesterday, the few transactions effected being at late rates.

The following sales of investment stocks were reported:—Morning: Australian Gaslight, £19/1/6; City Bank of Sydney, old, 55/; Union Bank, £63; Wallsend Coal, £26; Marcus Clark, ordinary, 21/; Marcus Clark, preference, £10/5/.

Closing quotations were:—

Company.	Amount of Shares.	Shares paid up.	Last Div. Per Annum.	Prices. Last Sale.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Yield to Investor.
STOCK.							
N.S.W. F.S. due 1912			3	85	84	..	3½
Do., due 1912			3½	98	..	99	3½
Do., due 1912			4	100/15/	100	101	3¾
Do., due 1915			3½	98/10/	98	99½	3½
Do., due 1921			3½	98/10/	98	99½	3½
Do., due 1924-5			3	..	96	..	..
Do., due 1909			4	100	100	..	4
Do., Cert. 1873			..	110	108½	110	3¾
Do., Deb., 1908			4	..	100	..	..
Ditto, T. Bills, 1906			..	3½	100	99½	3½
Ditto			..	4	100½	100½	3¾
N.Z. Deb., 1913			..	4	101	..	..
Ditto, 1921			..	4	101	100	3¾
Queens. Deb., 1913			..	4	101/10/	..	3¾
Do., Tr. Bills			..	4	101	100	4
W.A. Inscr.			..	4	101	..	..
Ditto, 1902			..	..	..	..	3½
Australian Gas Deb., 1927			..	4	102	101	3¾
City Syd. Deb.			..	4	102	..	3¾
Col. Sug. D., 1914			..	5	108	107	4½
BANKS.							
Australasia	40	40	14	108	107	..	5½
City	10	8	2	55	55/	60/	8¾
Colonial	10	8	3	57/6	..	55/	8¾
Com. of Syd.	25	12½	10	27/10	27½	28	7¼
C. Syd. (new)	25	12	..	27 3/9	27½	..	..
Commercial of Australia	10	10/	..	10/	10/	..	..
Do., pref.	10	10	5	5/12½	..	..	..
N.S.W.	20	20	10	45/12/6	45	45½	4½
N. Zealand††	62	34	10	8/10/	8½	8¾	4
N. Queensland	7	2	4	33/6	35/	..	4½
National of Australasia	8	5	5	9¾/	9⅝/	9⅞/	5¼
Ditto, pref.	10	10	5	11/4/	..	11½	..
Q'land National	8	2	..	20/6	..	..	20/
Royal of Q.	75	25	14	63	62½	65½	90/6
Union		10	24	12½ 5/10/	5¾	6¼	5½
DEPOSITS.							
A.J.S. Bank			..	3	10/6	11/	11/6
Class B			..	3	13/	12/	..
Class B., 1917			..	3	10/3	10/	..
Ditto, Inscr.			..	3	10/6	10/3	..
Com. of Aus. Assets			..	3	17/6	17/6	..
E. S. and A. Deb.			..	4	18/2½	18/	18/6
Ditto, pref.			..	3	12/3	12/6	..
Ditto, def.			..	4½	18/2	18/6	4¾
Q. Sat.			..	3	16/7	16/6	17/
STEAM.							
Balmain Ferry	1	1	10	38/6	38/	39/	5¼
Howard Smith	1	1	15	44/	43/	44/	6¾
Ditto	5	5	15	18/	25/	30/9	21/6
Pref.	1	1	5	21/2	20/9	21/6	4¾
Ditto	5	5	5	18/	18/3	19/6	..
Illawarra	1	1	6	23/3	23/6	..	5¼
Newcastle	1	1	6	23/	22/6	..	5¼
North Coast	1	1	8	25/6	25/	..	6¼
Q'land Steam	1	1	10	60	57/6	62/6	8¼
Syd. Ferries	1	1	10	..	60/	62/6	8¼
INSURANCE.							
A. M. Fire	1	15/	14	42/6	42/	45/	6⅔
Col. Mut. Fire	1	1	20	55/	53/	..	7½
Mer. Mutual	1	1	10	17/	16/9	17/	5⅞
New Zealand	10	2	15	73/	74/	..	10¼
Queensland††	1	10	8	17/	16/10½	17/6	4½
United	10	2½	12½	5/10/	5¾	6¼	5¼
COAL.							
Bellambi	1	1	17½	46/	45/	46/	7¾
East Greta	1	1	10	27/6	27/6	..	..
Heddon Greta	1	1	10	..	5/	4/9	..
Hetton	5	5	6	6/2/6	6/3	..	..
Metropl. coll.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	1	8	22/	19/6	..	7½
Ditto, pref., 8.	1	1	10	14/	13/	..	..
M. Kembla	10	10	5	6/5/	6	6¼	..
Newcastle	11	10	10	6/5/	6	6¼	..
North Bulli	1	1	10	31/	..	31/	6⅝
South Greta	10	10/	10	13/10½	13/	..	..
Stockton	1	1	10	..	1/	..	..
Ditto, new	1	1	10	24/6	..	..	..
Vale of Clwydd	1	1	10	24/6	..	..	..
Wallsend	10	10	20/	26	25½	26/	7½
Waratah	6	..	..	..	..	..	1/6
Wickham and Bullock Is.	1	20	..	6/2	7/	..	..
Ditto, new	1	18/	..	4/9	5/	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	..	..	22/	20/	..	22/
GAS.							
Albury	1	12/6	10	21/6	21/	..	5⅞
Australian	6	6	15	10/1/6	10/1/6	10½	4
Ditto, new	1	1	10	11	11	..	4
Char. Towers	10/	10/	10/	14/9	..	..	..
Goulburn	1	1	8	61/	..	..	..
Grafton	1	1	9	32/3	31/	..	5⅞
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Lenra	1	1	..	24/	23/3	24/	..
Maitland††	1	1	7	23/	23	24	..
Manly	1	1	9	42/6	..	..	..
Ditto, new	1	5/	9	32/	..	..	..
Mudgee	1	1	10	24/	..	..	..
Newcastle	1	1	15	68	66	68	..
North Shore	1	1	8	45/	..	..	..
BREWERIES.							
C. and Wood Bros.			..	4	10/3	9/	7½
Parkins'	15/	15	..	14/	4/10	..	6⅝
Toohey's	16	16	5	12/6	12½	13	6⅝
Tooth's			..	10	42/	41/9	4⅞
MISCEL'S.							
Aarons'	15/	10/	5	3/9	..	..	..
A. Taylor Co.	1	1	10	24/3	..	..	..
Aust. Stat. Mills	1	1	..	..	24/	30/	..
Aust. News	1	1	..	12/6	13/3	14/	..
B. H. W. Sup.	15	15	10	22/9	22/6	45/	49/6
Burns, Philp	1	1	10	47/	47/	47/6	4¼
Do., new issue	1	10/	10	21/6	21/	..	4¾
Col. Sugar	20	20	10	45 5/	43¾	44	4½
Dalgety & Co.††	20	5	7	6/9/	..	..	6¼
Dunlop Pneu. Tyre, pref.	1	1	7	21/	..	..	..
Emu B. Bath	1	1	..	4/10½	..	..	..
Emu Bay, B.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Emu and Pros.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Gravel	12	10/	6¼	12/3	12/	..	5¼
F. Food, Ice	12	10/	8	11/9	11/9	12/6	7
Goodlet and Smith	15	15/	8	17/	16/9	17/	7
H. M'Kenzie, ord.	1	1	..	22	..	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	1	..	22/6	21/	..	..
Hotel Metropole	20	6	25/	..	..	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	10/	15/	..	22/	..	..
Marcus Clark, ord.††	1	1	8	21/	20/6	23/	7½
Ditto, pref.	1	10	10	10/5	10	..	6¾
Melb. Tram	1	1	10	39/11	38/6	..	5¼
Mont de Piete	1	1	10	38/	38/6	52	..
Mort's Dock	1	1	10	20/9	19/9	..	..
Ditto, pref.	1	1	6	23/6	22/6	..	..
Paul and Gray	1	1/6	10	3/3	2/6	3/1	11¼
Penn. Trust	5	2/6	10	5/	5/	5/3	5
Perpetual Trust	10	5	10	12/	12/	14/	4¾
Pitt, Son, and Badgery	1	1/	10	16/	14/	..	7
Q'land Meat Ex. and Agcy.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Richardson and Wrench	1	1	5	14/	13/6	14/6	7
E. Rich and Co.	1	1	5	14/6	..	..	..
Sly, Trans.	1	1	40	87/	88/	90	9¼
Syd. Cyclorama	1	1	5	15/6	15/	20/	6¼
Syd. Exchange	10	10	6	12/3/6	12	..	5
Syd. Hyd. and M.	1	1	10	29/	28/	30/	7
Ditto, con.	1	10/	10	15/	14/	15/	6⅔
Syd. Hyd. and G. E.	1	15/	15	28/9	..	26/6	8¼
W. H. Soul, Patt., and Co.	1	1	10	47/	46/	..	4½
LAND and RD.							
Com. B. and L.	10	10	..	2/6	..	2/6	..
Ind. Prov.	10	20	6	19	19	..	6¼
Interc. Inv.	1	15/	12½	28/6	27/6	..	6¼
Newc. B. and L.	..	..	6	..	20	..	6¼
Syd. Prov. L.	1	6/7	20	3	..	..	..

† Where dividends are interim the yield is based on a year's distribution, otherwise on the last half-yearly one. †† Ex dividend. ** Ex. interest. § Call paid. y. Ex rights. Z. London delivery. M. 6 months. * Plus annual payments of 10/6 per cent.

INTERSTATE EXCHANGES.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

To-day's sales were:—Commercial Bank, 10/3; Melbourne Trams, 40/.

FINANCIAL.

WOOL MARKET.

Since the wool auctions closed on 17th inst a moderate amount of business has been transacted by private treaty at prices about on a level with those in force at the concluding sales. The market promises to be quiet during the holiday period, write Dalgety and Co., Ltd., buyers in most cases being disposed to suspend purchasing operations until the turn of the year. Public sales will be resumed in the Sydney market on January 4, more than a fortnight earlier as compared with the beginning of sales in the new year last season. While it is difficult to gauge the trend of the market in the near future, it is considered likely, in view of the magnitude of the sales already made in the Australasian centres, amounting to nearly 1,000,000 bales, that prices will not now recede. Owing to the expected early closing of the Melbourne and Geelong sales, the whole of the buying power should shortly be concentrated in the Sydney market, where sales will probably go into the middle of March. Given a continuance of the American demand, sellers are hopeful that upon resumption of sales in ten days' time there will be a firm market in the basis of closing December rates, more especially as up to the present Yorkshire buyers have bought very sparingly, and no doubt will have to come into the market for their usual supplies.

DALGETY AND CO., LIMITED.

Some particulars of the balance-sheet of Dalgety and Co., Limited, have already appeared in this column. The following supplementary statement, showing the profits and dividends paid by this company during the last 12 years, may not prove without interest:—

Year ended June 30.	Net Trading Profits.	Net Dividend.	Per cent.
1908	£430,745	£147,187	7
1907	427,092	147,743	7
1906	371,591	108,992	7
1905	334,161	85,992	5
1904	355,467	64,892	5
1903	271,880	46,825	5
1902	397,354	84,898	8
1901	234,502	80,979	8
1900	301,831	90,086	8
1899	292,513	85,598	8
1898	289,432	80,571	8
1897	280,150	83,002	8

GOLDSBOROUGH, MORT, AND CO., LTD.

The statutory half-yearly meeting of the above company was held in Melbourne on Tuesday, Sir William Zeal presiding. The chairman said that pastoral interests generally had suffered to a considerable extent through want of rain, consequently the wool clip was showing a shortage as compared with the previous year. Good and fairly general rains fell during the middle of winter and in the early spring, relieving the position very much, and reviving hopes that a fair season would ensue. It now depended on the nature of the summer rains whether these hopes would be realised. The wool market, owing to financial troubles in Europe and the United States, and the generally unsettled state of trade, had been more depressed than for several years past, and at the opening sales in Melbourne prices were from 25 to 30 per cent. lower than those ruling at the opening sales last year. As sales progressed prices had improved for the higher qualities of merinos, and in special cases high prices had been received for very fine and light wools; but, generally speaking, the average return would prove considerably lower than that of last year. Notwithstanding the unfavourable climatic conditions during the autumn, they had a fair average lambing on the company's properties. To make room for this increase they had been obliged to dispose of large numbers of sheep. In this they had been greatly hampered by the delays and difficulties of transport over the New South Wales railways. The board felt justified in recommending the payment of an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Sydney Stock Exchange will not reopen till Tuesday, January 5.

The following notification has been filed with the Registrar-General:—At a special general meeting of the shareholders of William Brooks and Co., Limited, held on December 16, it was decided that the capital of the company should be increased by the issue of 15,000 7 per cent. preference shares at par, of which 5000 shall be offered forthwith, the present shareholders to have the first offer of same. Such shares to be paid for 10/ per share on application, and 10/ per share on allotment. The remaining 10,000 shares to be held for disposal at the discretion of the shareholders in general meeting assembled. The above resolution was confirmed at a special meeting held on December 24.

Dalgety and Co., Ltd., who have for some years been the local agents for the Fiji Government, have now been also appointed agents for the Western Pacific High Commission.

The Suevic takes two boxes of gold for London, shipped by G. S. Yuill and Co., Ltd., and the Omrah two boxes, shipped by the Orient Company.

COMMERCIAL.

WHEAT AND JUTE.

The only markets in which interest will be at all sustained during the holidays are wheat and jute. Yesterday the wheat market was practically nominal, parcels were offering at 3/8 to 3/8½, but shippers did not budge from 3/7½, and millers were mostly standing off. The first steamer of the season—the Clio—got away with a cargo yesterday, and another vessel went alongside. Cornsacks were without alteration in quotations at 4/10 to 4/10½, plenty being available at the lower figure.

STOCKS IN BOND.

The stocks of merchandise other than wines, spirits, narcotics, and sugar in bond on December 24, also at the corresponding period last year, and movements of the week, were:—

	Imported.	Duty Paid.	Exported.	In Bond a year ago.	Bond on Friday.
Hops, the	1,061	73,583	53,124		
Candles, boxes	505	12,922	7,663		
Milk, cases	20	4,011	3,624		
Ditto, bags	6,829	4,149	600	32,647	34,076
Ditto, bags	14,280	2,007	1,760	24,253	27,174
Vinegar, casks				951	950
Ditto, cases		34	10	3,355	992
Galvanised iron, ca.	21			1,981	723
Glucose, casks			11	831	295
Ditto, cases				586	1,245
Ditto, bags			44	49,037	42,867
Ditto, bags			20	21,209	15,444
Rock salt, tons				16	171
Cement, casks	146			4,712	2,263
Currants, lbs.	29,465	21,094		294,731	221,126
Raisins, lbs.		1,095		103,195	145,264
Dates, lbs.		28,178	66	99,344	95,317
Other fruits, lbs.	7,095	162		76,577	24,872
Coffee, lbs.		6,561		98,348	85,089

At Darling Harbour yesterday 3470 bales of wool were manifested to arrive.

The revenue collected at the Customs House yesterday amounted to £7496.

At Darling Harbour yesterday 1406 tons of wheat, and 90 tons of flour, were manifested to arrive.

LONDON MARKET CABLES.

SILVER.

LONDON, Dec. 23 (1.5 p.m.).

Bar silver is quoted to-day 1/10½ per ounce standard.

Dec. 24. 4.35 a.m.

METALS.

Yesterday's closing quotations were:—

Copper, spot, b £63, s £63/5/—10/ up; three months, b £63/2/6, s £64/2/6—2/6 up; electrolytic, £65/15/—6/ up.

Tin, cash, b £132/10/, s £133—2/6 lower.

Lead, b £13, s £13/5/—unchanged.

VISIBLE WHEAT SUPPLY.

The American visible supply of wheat and flour east of the Rockies is estimated by "Bradstreet's" at the equivalent of 33,241,000 bushels.

SALE OF WHEAT CARGO.

The cargo of the Nonsuch, Australian wheat steamer, has been sold at 35/7½ per quarter of 480lb.

LONDON TALLOW SALES.

Messrs. Goldsbrough, Mort, and Co., Ltd., have received from their London house, under yesterday's date, the following cable:—"Tallow: Price are unaltered for our last report. Quotations as follows:—Fair to good mutton tallow, demand steady at from 31/6 to 32/ per cwt. Beef: Demand steady at from 30/6 to 31/ per cwt.

INTERSTATE MARKETS.

ADELAIDE, Thursday.

The wheat markets are advised as weaker, and the sale of a cargo is advised at 35/7½. In consequence of this the price was reduced a half-penny to-day, and old and new wheat are now uniform at 3/7½. Flour was quiet at £5/15/. Bran and pollard were steady at 1/1.

MELBOURNE, Thursday.

Wheat was steady at 3/7½. Algerian oats were quiet at 1/6 to 1/11. Maize was dull at 3/9. Chaff was steady at £3/12/6. Potatoes were firmer owing to small supplies. Good to prime new were quoted at £5 to £6/10/. Onions were firm at £4/10/ to £5. The import market was generally inactive. Cornsacks were quoted at 5/8. Branbags were selling at 4/3 on the spot. Business was done in branbags for forward delivery.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

TRADE IN SUSSEX-STREET.

There was practically nothing doing with produce lines. A shipment of about 800 bags of new Hunter River potatoes arrived, but as they seemed to meet no inquiry the price was not fixed, although some were asking up to £6. They came to hand in a disappointing condition. The bulk of them were very small, while some were hardly worth handling. The recent dry weather which has been experienced in that district has evidently spoilt the crop. The Kyogle arrived with 250 bags from the Clarence too late for the market. Grey peas were not so plentiful, and the prices were a shade firmer. Chaff did not command much attention, but was steady at late rates. The Kooyong brought 10,000 bags of chaff from Adelaide. Maize was dull, and values were weak. Oats were quiet at unchanged prices. Other lines were unaltered.

Current quotations were:—

FEED-GRAIN AND OFFAL MARKET.

Maize.—Local: Best offering 4/3; Victorian, 4/5; Java, 4/; per bushel.

Barley.—Nominal.

Peas.—Nominal; grey, 4/4 to 4/5.

Oats.—Tasmanian: 2/9. New Zealand: 2/9 to 2/11 bus.

Bran.—£3; pollard, £6 ton.

FORAGE MARKET.

Chaff.—South Australian: Prime £4/10/ to £4/15/, medium £4/5/ to £4/10/. Victorian: £4/6/ to £4/10/.

Oaten Hay.—Victorian: £6 to £6/10/ ton.

Derrick Straw.—Tasmanian: £2/17/6 ton.

Lucerne.—Hunter River: Prime dry green £3/15/, best brown £3/10/, inferior and greasy from 40/ upwards.

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes.—Victorian: To £5/5/.

Onions.—Victorian: £5/15/ to £6.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

Bacon made rapid sales. The inquiry improved for shoulders and sides, while flitches and middles did not meet with quite as strong a demand. Hams were unchanged, except for very heavy weights, which grocers were forced to buy. Eggs were moving off satisfactorily.

Ellis and Co., Live Stock and Produce Merchants.—Sales of hay, chaff, etc., held at Redfern daily.—Advt.

PERNEWAN, WRIGHT, and CO., Ltd.—Grain and Produce Agents. Auc. Sales daily at Redfern.—Advt.

PINEAPPLE RALEIGH and MAIZE.—Quality of highest excellence. Flavour really delicious. Ask your grocer for it. Take no other.—Advt.

HOMEBUSH STOCK MARKET.

YESTERDAY'S SALES.

SHEEP.

Upwards of 32,363 sheep and lambs were balloted for sale, from 124 consignors, and 45,926 head were penned. Some of the sheep were late in arriving. The consignments were mainly in small lots, with 16 drafts ranging from 1000 to 3000 head. The sheep mainly comprised medium and useful quality merino wethers and ewes, with a sprinkling of prime and odd pens of extra prime. There were also one or two large lines of woolly merinos. Crossbreds were well represented, mainly fair to good quality, with odd pens of prime. The usual buyers were present, including exporters and the Sydney Meat Preserving Company, Ltd. As there are no sales on Sunday next, and the supply has to cover a week's requirements, the market opened to strong competition at an improvement of /6 per head on shorn wethers, who were generally were firm at late reduced rates. The tone was barely so strong during the later sales. Quotations:—Prime shorn merino wethers 11/ to 12/6, extra prime 13/ to 13/6, good shorn merino wethers and hoggets 8/ to 9/6, medium merino wethers and hoggets 6/ to 7/, prime shorn merino ewes 8/ to 9/6, extra prime 10/6 to 11/6, a few at 12/, good shorn merino ewes 6/ to 7/, medium and light shorn merinolewes 3/6 to 5/, prime shorn crossbred wethers 12/ to 13/, extra prime crossbred wethers 13/6 to 14/, good shorn crossbred wethers and hoggets 10/ to 11/, medium shorn crossbred wethers and hoggets 8/ to 9/, prime shorn crossbred ewes 11/6 to 12/6, extra prime 13/6 to 14/, good shorn crossbred ewes and hoggets 9/ to 10/6, medium and light 7/ to 8/, woolly merino wethers 9/6 to 12/1, woolly merino ewes 6/6 to 9/6. Sales:—

Pitt, Son, and Badgery, Ltd.—W. R. Munro, Moree, 1105 w (woolly) 11/11 to 12/1, 677 e (woolly) 8/8, 148 7/1, 72 w (woolly) 9/8; A. R. Trigg, Forbes, 887 w 8/9 to 9/11, 441 10/; to 10/5; C. E. White, Barraba, 513 e (woolly) 9/6, 138 6/6 to 7/ 40 e 8/, 26 w 8/8; A. A. Nunn, Trangie, 187 e 7/1 to 7/5, 20 w 10/6, 24 8/11; W. Gilligan, Coonamble, 1000 lambs, 3-b-d. Darling, Orana, 61 w 8/8, 17 e 7/; Southern agents, Gelong, 138 w 10/, 64 11/; J. Mooney, Moree, 116 11/, 60 w 9/6; Bowman Bros., Warialda, 175 e 8/6, 30 w 10/4; R. D. Cruickshank, Warialda, 40 e and w 8/; R. J. Roberts, late for the markets, correspondingly they will have to be held over till Monday next. Supplies of lard were heavier, and sales of bulk and bladders were dull. The shipments of butter were late, and the stocks on hand were sufficient, and sold well.

Current quotations were:—

Butter.—Special favoured brands 96/, good 92/ to 94/, second and medium grades 86/ to 90/, inferior pastry, 68/ to 76/ per cwt.

Cheese.—Local: Prime loaf /8 to /7, good /5 to /5½, soft and new /4 to /4½; prime large /5 to /7, good /5 to /5½; special brands /9 to /9½ per lb.

Lard.—Packets and small bladders, /7½; bulk, /6 to /7; special brands, packets and small bladders, /8 to /9½; bulk, /7½ to /8½ lb.

Bacon.—Prime factory, sides /9½ to /9¾, flitches /8 to /9, middles /10½ to /10¾; bacon, hams, /11 to 1/; special brands, sides /9¾ to /10, flitches /8¾ to /9¼, middles /10 to /11½; seed hams, double covers 1/1 to 1/3; hams, single covers, 1/0¾ to 1/2¾. New Zealand: Hams 1/3 per lb.

Eggs.—Northern, Nominal to /11; Southern and railways, /11 to /11½; box lots railway, to 1/; new laid 1/1 to 1/2; duck-eggs, /11, choice to 1/, few special brands 1/3.

FIREWOOD.

At the auction sales 30 trucklonds were submitted, and fairly satisfactory sales resulted. Prices ruled at about last week's values.

The following prices were realised:—

Best boxwood, 14/ to 15/6, good 13/ to 14/; bakers' wood 12/ to 13/, good 11/ to 12/; ironbark, 10/6 to 13/6; stringybark, 10/6 to 13/.

APIARY PRODUCTS.

Honey was fairly plentiful, but sales were slow. Beeswax was quiet.

Current quotations were:—

Honey.—Western, 60lb tins, choice, /2½ to /3, good /2 to /2½, inferior and candied from /1½ to /2; Northern River, /1½ to /2.

Beeswax.—Prime clear 1/2 to 1/3½, dark from 1/1 to 1/1½.

POULTRY.

A keen demand set in for poultry, and as there were practically no stocks on hand the choice birds brought a ready sale. Turkeys were out of the question, while geese ruled exceptionally high. The market ruled higher all round, and record prices were received.

Current prices were:—

Roosters, choice young 6/ to 7/6, few 8/, good 4/ to 5/6; old hens, good fat sorts 5/6 to 4/6; chickens, 2/6 to 3/; English ducks, choice 6/ to 7/6, good 3/ to 5/, few up to 8/; Muscovy, drakes 5/ to 8/, good 4/6; turkeys, gobblers, extra heavy and choice up to 20/; choice 18/ to 24/6, good 10/ to 15/, hens from 8/ to 15/; geese, extra choice 15/ to 16/6, choice 8/6, good 7/ to 8/; young goslings, 8/; guinea-fowls, 4/6; pigeons, /6 to 1/9 per pair.

AUCTION SALES.

Exactly half the offerings at the produce sale held in the railway goods shed on Thursday morning were passed in for private dealings. There was only a moderate attendance of buyers, competition was exceedingly slack, and prices generally were weaker than of late. The offerings were made up in the following manner:—Chaff 30, lucerne hay 12, lucerne chaff 5, oaten hay 1, wheat 2, maize 1, potatoes 1. Sixteen consignments of new season's chaff were disposed of at prices which represent a decline of about 5/ per ton on late levels. Choice oats realised from 4/10 to 4/8, prime at 4/3, and medium from 3/10 and 3/11 per cwt. Lucerne hay sold slowly at a reduction of from 10/ to 15/ per cwt. Choice small lots late realised from at 4/6, and medium 3/ and 3/2 per cwt. Prime lucerne chaff was booked at 5/3 per cwt. Oaten hay was entirely neglected. Prime chickwheat changed hands at 3/8½ per bushel. A consignment of Queensland maize was also submitted to buyers' approval, but was reserved for private dealings after bidding had ceased at 4/ per bushel. Medium quality new season's tubers moved off at 4/3 per cwt.

Supplies were disposed of as follows:—

Chaff.—Ex Bomen, (5660) p 4/6, (2699) p 4/6, (12683) p 4/6, (11382) p 4/3; Nadin, Allcock, and Dunoon, Coolamon, (4560) 4/5, (9700) 4/5, (6510) 4/6; Lucas, (11310) p 4/4; Byrnes, Waggs, (7021) 4/3; Hutchison and Wilson, (6730) p 4/4; Strickland, Forbes, (7483) 3/6, (1299) 3/11, (12068) 3/10, (4178) 3/10; Birch, (9143) 4/8, (24866) 4/7; Smith, (9870) 4 tons 4/5, Inskeep 4/5; Kirkman, Woodstock, (9769) p 5/9; Dimmock, Wattamondera, (9199) p 4/5, (4851) p 4/5; Bullock, Katoomba, (2236) 4/3; Mattiske, Bathurst, (3215) p 4/3, (10022) 4/5; Brunskill, Coolamon, (5555) 4/8; Valverdie, Henty, (2366) 4/6; Hargreaves, Coolamon, (13185) p 4/4; Creely, Derrain, (11983) no bid; West Coolamon, (155) p 4/5 per cwt.

Lucerne Hay.—From Mills, Mudgee, (1555) p 4/2; Mogg, (10915) p 4/1, (12663) p 4/8; Raynor, (2452) p 4/10; Allan Bros., (1504), 28 bales 4/6, balance 4/2 p 4/2; Kiepsig, Tamworth (9549), p 3/8; ex East Maitland (2955), 3/2; ex Muswellbrook, (9229) 3, (9317) 3/2; Brunskill, Coolamon, (5555) 4/8; Valverdie, Henty, (2366) 4/6; Hargreaves, Coolamon, (13185) p 4/4; Creely, Derrain, (11983) no bid; West Coolamon, (155) p 4/5 per cwt.

Lucerne Chaff.—From Badkin, Tamworth, (9761) no bid; Hooley, Morpeth, (6710) 3/8 per cwt.

Oaten Hay.—From Lavelle, Kelpo, (741) p 5/6 per cwt.

Wheat.—Ex Quirindi, (11686) p 3/7½; Aliffe Bros., Manilla, (13067) 3/8½ per bushel.

Maize.—From Long, Wallangarra, (9705), p 4/ per bushel.

Potatoes.—From Porter Bros., East Maitland, (2985) 4/3 per cwt.

FRUIT MARKETS.

BATHURST-STREET.

Business was fairly animated at Bathurst-street. A scarcity was noted with choice varieties, which brought very firm rates. Medium and small stuff was plentiful, but was not sought after readily. Prices were unchanged at current rates.

Current quotations were:—

Apples.—American: Jonathans, extra heavy 12/ to 15/; Spitz, 10/ to 11/; Baldwins, good colour, 14/; Permain, 10/ to 10/6; Gravensteins, 10/ to 11/; Wagners, 10/ to 11/. Local: Carringtons, choice 10/ to 11/; good to medium 5/6 to 7/, small 2/6 to 3/; cooking, 5/ to 6/, medium 2/6 to 3/; Lord Nelson, choice 5/6 to 6/ per gin-case. Victorian: 6/ to 7/ per bushel-case. Local: Jam lots, 1/6 per gin-case.

Apricots.—Choice coloured 4/ to 5/, medium 2/6 to 3/ per box; jam lots, 4/ per gin-case.

Black Currants.—Tasmanian: 5/ per quarter-case.

Bananas.—G.M., 12/ to 13/ per case, 4/ to 8/ per bunch. Fiji: 11/ to 12/ per case, 2/6 to 7/6 per bunch. Queensland: 8/ to 9/ per case, 2/ to 5/ per bunch.

Cherries.—Adelaide: 1/6 upwards per tray. Victorian: Extra choice black 5/ to 7/, whites, 4/ to 5/, small 1/ to 2/ per half-imperial bushel-case. Few extra choice to 7/, choice 4/ to 5/, good 2/6 to 3/6 per 12lb box, extra choice 5/, choice 3/ to 4/, small 2/ to 2/6 per quarter-case.

Gooseberries.—Tasmanian: 2/6 to 3/ per half-case. Local: Choice 3/6, good 2/6 to 3/ per box.

Lemons.—Local: Choice, up to 5/, medium 10/ to 12/, small 7/ to 8/. Italians nominal.

Mangoes.—Queensland: Practically unsaleable.

Nectarines.—Second crop: Unprocurable. Choice 10/ to 12/, medium 6/ to 7/, small 2/ to 2/6 per case.

Nectarines.—Choice 4/6 to 5/, medium 3/ to 3/6, small 1/6 to 2/ per half-case.

Oranges.—Local: Choice 9/ to 10/, medium 6/ to 7/, small and rough 2/6 to 5/. Second crop, choice 6/ to 7/, medium 2/6 to 3/, small and rough almost unsaleable. Valencias: Choice, 15/ to 16/, medium 7/ to 9/ per gin-case. American: Washington Navels, /1 to /1½ per box, containing from 150 to 200. Italian: 12/ to 13/ per 150.

Plums.—Angelinas, choice 4/ to 4/6, medium 2/6 to 3/ half-case. Japanese: Choice coloured 2/6 to 3/ per half-case, medium 3/ per gin-case. Black Bullies, 2/ to 3/ per gin-case; jam lots, 1/ per gin-case.

Pears.—Jargonelles, choice 4/6 to 5/, medium 3/ to 3/6 per gin-case; Williams, 7/ to 7/6 per gin-case.

Peaches.—Brigate, choice 5/ to 7/, medium 3/ to 3/6 per box, small 2/ to 3/ per gin-case. China: 2/ to 4/ per gin-case. Hale's Early, choice 4/6 to 5/6, medium 3/ to 3/6 per box. Derbied, choice 4/ to 4/6, medium 3/, small 1/6 to 2/ per box.

Pineapples.—Queensland: Common, choice 6/ to 10/; Ripley

FUNERALS.

ELLIOTT.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. JAMES ELLIOTT, of Merrylands, are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved MOTHER, Ann Maria Elliott; to move from her late residence, Wigram-street, Granville, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 9 o'clock, for the New Methodist Cemetery, Rookwood.
WM. METCALFE and CO.

ELLIOTT.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. MUSTON, of Harris Park, are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved MOTHER, Ann Maria Elliott; to leave her late residence, Wigram-street, Granville, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 9 o'clock, for the New Methodist Cemetery, Rookwood.
WM. METCALFE and CO.

ELLIOTT.—The Friends of Mr. JAMES SMITH, of 26 St. Mary-street, Camperdown, are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of his beloved SISTER, Ann Maria Elliott; to move from her late residence, Wigram-street, Granville, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 9 o'clock, for the New Methodist Cemetery, Rookwood.
Tel., 99. WM. METCALFE and CO., Parramatta.

HAYDEN.—The Friends of Mr. HAYDEN and FAMILY are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their beloved WIFE and MOTHER, which will leave her late residence, Underwood-avenue, off Bay-street, Botany, THIS AFTERNOON, at 2.45, for the Botany Cemetery.
JOSEPH MEDCALF,
Undertaker, Redfern.

MACKAY.—The Funeral of the late Mrs. MARGARET MACKAY will leave her husband's residence, Ithaca, Burwood-street, Burwood, TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, at 9.30 a.m., for the Necropolis, via road.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Railway-parade, Burwood.
Tel., 472 B.

MOLLET.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR MOLLET are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved BOY, Ernest Peter; to move from their residence, 10 Bucknell-street, Newtown, TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, at 9.30 a.m., for Field of Mars.
GEORGE ANDREWS, Undertaker,
'Phone, 155 N. 60 Australia-street, Newtown.

MOLLET.—The Friends of ARTHUR, WALTER, M. PIERCE, LESLIE, ROY, MARY, and NORMAN MOLLET are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late beloved BROTHER, Ernest Peter; to move from his late residence, 10 Bucknell-street, Newtown, TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, at 9.30 a.m., for Field of Mars Cemetery.
GEORGE ANDREWS, Undertaker.

MOORE.—The Friends of Mr. ROBERT ALFRED MOORE and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved WIFE and MOTHER; to leave his residence, 125 St. John's-road, Forest Lodge, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 8.30, for the Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Funeral Directors.

MOORE.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN V. PLEGG are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved SISTER, Ada Jane Moore; to leave 125 St. John's-road, Forest Lodge, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 8.30, for the Necropolis. COFFILL and COMPANY.

MOORE.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM PLEGG and FAMILY are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved SISTER and AUNT, Mrs. Ada Jane Moore; to leave 125 St. John's-road, Forest Lodge, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 8.30, for the Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY.
Tel., 1160, 424, etc.

PIGRAM.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. WALSH and Messrs. GEORGE and JAMES PIGRAM are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved MOTHER, Mrs. Mary E. Pigram; to leave her late residence, 2 Ivy-street, Darlington, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 8.30, for the Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Funeral Directors.

THEW.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. HENRY F. WELLS are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved DAUGHTER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to leave their residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.
CROCKETT and COMPANY,
Undertakers, Leichhardt.
Tel., 307 P'sham.

THEW.—The Friends of Miss ETHEL WELLS and BERTIE THEW are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of her dearly loved SISTER and his MOTHER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to leave her parents' residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.

THEW.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN FREEMAN are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved SISTER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to leave her parents' residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.

THEW.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE WELLS are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved SISTER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to move from her parents' residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.

THEW.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES WELLS are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved SISTER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to leave her parents' residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.

THEW.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. WALTER WELLS are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved SISTER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to move from her parents' residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.

THEW.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. ALFRED WELLS are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of their dearly beloved SISTER, the late Evelyn Maria Thew; to leave her parents' residence, 2 Jarrett-street, Leichhardt, THIS AFTERNOON, at 1.45, for the Waverley Cemetery.

TRURAN.—The Friends of Mr. GEORGE TRURAN are kindly invited to attend the Funeral of his late beloved WIFE, Philadelphia, which will leave his residence, Iola, Jones-street, Hornsby, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 9.30 o'clock, for St. John's Church of England Cemetery, Gordon.
WOOD and COMPANY,
Funeral Directors, Syd., North 1., subs. T., 726

WILKES.—The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. EDWIN R. WILKES are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their late dearly loved DAUGHTER, Rosa Australia; to leave their residence, 25 Buffalo-street, Glebe, TO-MORROW (Saturday) MORNING, at 8.30, for the Necropolis.
COFFILL and COMPANY,
Tel., 424, 1160, etc. Sydney and Suburbs.

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Lessee and Manager ..... J. C. WILLIAMSON.
THE THEATRE will be
CLOSED TO-NIGHT.
TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, AT 2. (SATURDAY), TO-MORROW. EVENING. AT 7.30.
THE MERRY WIDOW.
THE MERRY WIDOW.
Played by
THE ROYAL COMIC OPERA COMPANY
Prices as usual. Box Plan will be on view at Theatre Office, Market-street, from 9 a.m. TO-MORROW (SATURDAY).
J. C. WILLIAMSON.

HER MAJESTY'S, The JANY. 2, 1909.
J. C. WILLIAMSON
ROYAL COMIC OPERA COMPANY,
to appear in the Romantic Opera,
"THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC."
"THE DUCHESS OF DANTZIC."
Book and Lyrics by HENRY HAMILTON. Produced by arrangement with Mr. George Edwardes. Music by IVAN CARYLL.
PRELIMINARY BOOKING.
Preliminary booking applications by others than yearly first-nighters (to whom seats for all first nights in the year were allotted on December 1st inst) will be received up to and inclusive of Monday, 28th inst. Applications to be in writing, addressed to the Business Manager, Her Majesty's Theatre, and to be accompanied by cheque or postal note for the number of seats required.
Applications may cover every first night for a year ending December 1 next, and will be filed and seats allotted in the order that they are received.
The Box Plan for the preliminary booking, at 7/6, will be open on Tuesday at Paling's, and for ordinary booking on Wednesday, 30th inst.
J. C. WILLIAMSON.

CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—Return Steamer Fare, 6d; Grounds and Pavilion, 1s.

UPPER LANE COVE FERRY, Ltd.—Connecting with steamers leaving No. 7 Jetty, Circular Quay. EXCURSION TRIPS, week days and Sundays, at 10 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.; Saturdays, 1.45 p.m. Seven miles of beautiful scenery. The Fairyland of Sydney Harbour. Return Fares, 1s 6d; Children, 9d.

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THE THEATRE will be
CLOSED TO-NIGHT.
TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, AT 2. (SATURDAY), TO-MORROW. EVENING. AT 7.30.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
Played by
THE JULIUS KNIGHT COMPANY.
Prices as usual. Box Plan will be on view at the Theatre Office, Castlereagh-street, from 9 a.m. TO-MORROW (SATURDAY).
J. C. WILLIAMSON.

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Ever since we have been in Sydney we have made a special offer for our Christmas customers. Therefore, we now make our
EIGHTEENTH SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER.
And in doing so we assure our friends that we have bent our whole strength to make this positively the best offer ever made in first-class photography.
GET YOUR PHOTO, 21/.
Absolutely the most astounding value ever BEFORE THE PUBLIC, viz., ONE DOZEN Cabinet Portraits, mounted on our new artistic mount and an ENLARGEMENT, framed in a most expensive Frame, for 21/.
Size of Frame, 26 x 22 inches.
NOTE.—The frames are of the best Quality three-ply Veneer Imported Oak, the whole frame being cut out of a large sheet of oak, and in only one piece. There are no joins in it. Splendid value. Please call and see it. Truly a wonderful offer and marvellous value. SPECIMENS ARE NOW ON VIEW. Do not overlook it. The ENLARGEMENT IS FRAMED at this price. To each sitter for this special offer we will supply proofs of three different positions, WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE; therefore everyone will be sure to get satisfactory results. It has taken many years of constant effort to build up our splendid reputation for HIGH ART WORK, and you may feel assured that every order (even at this very low price) will receive our best attention, and the work will be our very best, and will prove a pleasure to our customers, and a credit to our good name.
GET YOUR PHOTO. TAKEN NOW, 21/6.
WET OR CLOUDY WEATHER MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO OUR INSTANTANEOUS PROCESS. WE TAKE JUST AS GOOD PHOTOS AFTER DARK AS DURING THE DAY.
OPEN ALL DAY SATURDAY TILL 9 O'CLOCK.
THE CROWN STUDIOS, 448 GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY
SPECIAL NOTICE.
Our Night Studio is open on Saturday Evenings from 5.30 to 9 o'clock.
DON'T
Do not mistake our Studios. We are right next to Roberts's Hotel. Open until 5.30 daily; also Saturdays and Holidays.
THE CROWN STUDIOS, (NEXT TO ROBERTS'S HOTEL).
Our NEW STUDIOS, directly opposite Lasetter's (448 George-street), are the FINEST IN THE WORLD.

THE SYDNEY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.
Conductor, Mr. JOSEPH BRADLEY.
THE GREAT XMAS FESTIVAL,
THE "MESSIAH" (HANDEL),
TOWN HALL, XMAS AFTERNOON, AT 3.15.
ARTISTS:
Madame GRACE MILLER WARD (Soprano),
Miss ESTELLE MABEL WARD (Contralto),
Mr. HARRY NEIL (Tenor),
Mr. CHARLES ROSENTHAL (Bass).
CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA, 400.
Mr. J. M. CARTER, Leader of Orchestra. Mr. ERNEST TRUMAN at the Great Organ.
THE PEOPLE'S ANNUAL CONCERT,
AT THE USUAL POPULAR PRICES—3s (Reserved), 2s, and 1s.
AT TOWN HALL.
DOORS AT 2.30 P.M.
WILLIAM JOHNSON, Hon. Treas.; ROBERT B. BARTON, Hon. Sec., c.o. Messrs. Paling and Co., Ltd., George-street.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD.
BURNS V. JOHNSON.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
are made for Benefit of OUT-OF-TOWN PATRONS TO BOOK RESERVED SEATS, ADMISSION SEATS, or EARLY DOOR TICKETS at
THE STADIUM (ONLY), TO-DAY (CHRISTMAS).
FROM 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. HUGH D. M'INTOSH, Director.

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, DEC. 25, 1908.
ATHOL, CLIFTON, BALMORAL, AND THE SPIT FERRY—
FROM NO. 1 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY.
6.55X, 8X, 9X, 9.35S, 11, 11.30, 12, 1, 2, 2.25, 3, 3.25, 4.30, 5, 5.30, 6.30, 7, 8, 9. X Bather's boat. S Clifton and Balmoral Fare, including admission to baths—Adults 7d, Children 4d. Athol and Clifton only.
RETURN FARES—ADULTS 6d, CHILDREN 3d.
PARRAMATTA RIVER SERVICE, NO. 6 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY.
CHRISTMAS DAY—SUNDAY TIMETABLE.
EVERY HOUR FROM 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; to PARRAMATTA, 25 Miles of River Scenery. 1s RETURN. Round Trip, Steamer and Train, 2s RETURN. HYDE, 20 Miles of River Scenery, 9d RETURN.

BOXING DAY, SATURDAY, DEC. 26, 1908.
ATHOL, CLIFTON, BALMORAL, AND THE SPIT FERRY, No. 1 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY. STEAMERS EVERY TWENTY MINUTES FROM 9 A.M. DANCING AT CLIFTON GARDENS FROM 10 A.M.
RETURN FARE—ADULTS 6d, CHILDREN 3d.
PARRAMATTA RIVER SERVICE, NO. 6 JETTY, CIRCULAR QUAY.
DANCING—Correy's Gardens. Steamers HALF-HOURLY.
PARRAMATTA.—Steamers HOURLY from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. 25 MILES OF RIVER SCENERY. 1s RETURN.
SYDNEY FERRIES, LIMITED. W. G. TODD, Manager.

CLONTARF AND MIDDLE HARBOUR FERRY.
BOXING DAY, DANCING 9.30 A.M. TO 9.30 P.M.
CLONTARF, PEARL BAY, BANTRY BAY, AND KILLARNEY.
Steamers from Fort Macquarie Half-hourly from 9 a.m.
Steamers from The Spit Half-hourly from 10.
XMAS DAY, TO CLONTARF ONLY, 3 P.M.
CONCERT STEAMERS AT 3 AND 8 P.M. RETURN FARE, 6d.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, CHRISTMAS NIGHT, THE THEATRE WILL BE CLOSED.
TIVOLI THEATRE.
Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harry Rickards.
Treasurer ..... Mr. Edward H. Maas.
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'
NEW TIVOLI VAUDEVILLE AND SPECIALTY COMBINATION.
TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, BOXING DAY, GRAND HOLIDAY MATINEE, GRAND HOLIDAY MATINEE,
Doors open at 1.30. Commence at 2.20 sharp.
Mr. RICKARDS has much pleasure in announcing TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, BOXING DAY, he will introduce to his Patrons practically a new company of imported Stars from England, America, and the Continent of Europe.
First appearance in Sydney of Two of the Idols of Paris, from the Folies Bergeres,
AMALIA and LEONORA,
Marvels of Athletic Powers.
CRISTOFOLO,
Juggler and Equilibrist.
Miss AMBER AUSTA,
Eccentric Comedienne and Dancer.
Mr. WILL HAINES, Vocal Character Comedian.
And now comes one of Australia's greatest favourite Comedians, after an absence in England of eight years,
Mr. CHARLES FANING.
FANING and FANING, CHARLOTTA, Mr. FRANK DORE, Mr. LEN WARTON.
And still another reappearance, after an absence of over three years, of
MACKINNONS, SCOTTISH MEISTERS, arriving by the R.M.S. Orotava.
MISS NELLIE MANSELL,
ARTHUR ELLIOTT, TOM DAWSON,
FANING AND FANING,
Mr. J. W. RICKABY, Mr. J. W. RICKABY,
GOODFELLOW and GREGSON,
THE SISTERS RENO. THE SISTERS RENO.
GILBERT and NEWLYN
MISS GERTIE JOHNS, THE THREE MASCOTTS.
RUBY WALLACE.
PRICES: 3s, 2s 6d, 1s 6d, and 1s.
Early doors and booked seats 6d extra.
General Manager, JOHN C. LEETE.

MANDOLIN, VIOLIN, GUITAR, BANJO TUITION, by Mr. FRANCIS ROBT. PEEL and Assistants. THE SYDNEY ORCHESTRAL COLLEGE, Peel's Studios, 5 Hunter-street.

BIJOU PICTURE PALACE.
A SPECIAL MATINEE will take place EVERY DAY IN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WEEKS, beginning on Christmas Day, and concluding on New Year's Day, when the following special subjects will be shown:—
CINDERELLA (Coloured) PANTOMIME.
FIRST EXPERIENCE IN CHEMIST'S SHOP (Comic).
ALI BABA (Coloured) PANTOMIME.
CHRISTMAS (Coloured), with Full Chorus and Mechanical Effects. By special request.
BLUEBEARD (Coubured) PANTOMIME.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Coloured) PANTOMIME.
BURIED ALIVE (Comic).
PUSS IN BOOTS (Coloured) PANTOMIME, etc.
PRICES AS USUAL.
1/6, 1/, and Sixpence.
Children Half-price to all parts of the house.

BIJOU PICTURE PALACE.
(BIJOU AMUSEMENTS, LIMITED),
GEORGE-STREET,
RIGHT OPPOSITE THE RAILWAY STATION.
All penny trams stop right opposite.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. TO-NIGHT, AND EVERY EVENING, at 8.
THE COOLEST PLACE OF AMUSEMENT IN SYDNEY.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. FOUR LARGE SLIDING ROOFS.
THIS WEEK'S PROGRAMME
IS ABSOLUTELY THE VERY BEST
EVER SHOWN IN SYDNEY.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. THIS SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.
UNNATURAL FATHER.
A MIDNIGHT DREAM.
MODERN SANTA CLAUS.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. BORN TIRED.
THE WRONG MEDICINE.
ZEPPELIN AIR-SHIP.
A FIGHTING BULL.
BY A WOMAN'S WIT.
DOCTOR'S DODGE.
etc., etc., etc.
BIJOU PICTURE PALACE. GUARANTEE NO FLICKER.
PRICES AS USUAL. NO DIFFERENCE. 1/6, 1/, and Sixpence.

PROGRAMME OF OUR NEW FILMS FOR SALE OR HIRE EVERY WEEK, ON ACCOUNT OF OUR COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME WEEKLY.

DANCING.—XMAS NIGHT, also BOXING NIGHT, Leigh House. Gentn., 1s 6d; Ladies invited.
CORREY'S GARDENS, BOXING DAY.—Dancing 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. 1s. Boxsell's Band.

CRITERION THEATRE.
THE GAYEST OF THE GAY.
THE BOX PLAN AT ELVY'S.
CRITERION THEATRE.
Lessee ..... Mr. FRANK MUSGROVE.
Sub-Lessee and Manager ..... WILLIAM ANDERSON.
A MERRY XMAS.
GREAT HOLIDAY ATTRACTION,
COMMENCING TO-MORROW (BOXING NIGHT), DECEMBER 26.
RETURN TO SYDNEY,
after an absence of 12 months of WILLIAM ANDERSON'S FAMOUS DRAMATIC ORGANISATION,
Including the talented Australian Actress,
EUGENIE DUGGAN.
TO-MORROW (SATURDAY) AND EVERY EVENING, When will be presented the brilliantly staged and costumed Drury-lane Drama, in 4 acts,
THE GAYEST OF THE GAY.
Written by Messrs. Arthur Shirley and Eric Hudson, introducing a multitude of SPECTACULAR and REALISTIC MARVELS.
A COMBINATION OF EXCITEMENT, ROARING FUN, and CONTINUOUS ANIMATION.
MELBOURNE PRESS OPINIONS:—
"The Gayest of the Gay" is a drama of a striking description. The play includes scenes of a powerfully dramatic character, which won the applause of a crowded audience.
Popular prices. Box plan at Elvy's. Booking fee, 1s. Business Manager, JULIUS GRANT.

QUEEN'S HALL.
Under the Sole Management of Mr. Frank Scaife.
Brief Metropolitan Season.
DIRECT FROM LONDON.
Starting
BOXING NIGHT, SATURDAY,
BOXING NIGHT, DEC. 26th.
An innovation in Life Motion Picture Enterprise,
OUR EMPIRE,
Presented by Mr. Frank Scaife, Lecturer and Elocutionist, under the Patronage of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Harry H. Rawson, G.C.B., and the British Empire League in Australia.
OUR EMPIRE, DEPICTING IN THE MOST VIVID
OUR EMPIRE, AND REALISTIC MANNER THE
OUR EMPIRE, LIFE, INDUSTRIES, CHARACTER,
OUR EMPIRE, SCENERY, AND MIGHT OF THE
OUR EMPIRE, BRITISH EMPIRE.
Plan at Elvy's. Prices, 2s, 1s, and Sixpence. Booking Fee, 6d Extra.

CENTENARY HALL, YORK-STREET, SYDNEY.
TO-NIGHT, DECEMBER 25, 1908.
GRAND CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT.
1. Chorus—"And the Glory of the Lord" ("Messiah") ..... Handel
SUTHERLAND DISTRICT CHORAL UNION.
ROBERT DALLEY-SCARLETT, Esq., Conductor.
2. Solo—"O Divine Redeemer" ..... Gounod
Miss RUBY PEERS.
3. Pianoforte Solo—"Adeste Fideles" ..... Mendelssohn
Miss LILLI WOLSTENHOLME.
4. Part Song—"The Chapel" ..... Kreutzer
Mrs. MELVILLE'S JUVENILE CHORISTERS.
5. Solo—"Nirvana" ..... Adams
Mr. W. MURDEN.
6. Violin Solo—"Souvenir de Sorrento" ..... Papini
Miss IVY ALLEN.
7. Solo and Chorus—"O Thou That Tellest" (Messiah) ..... Handel
SUTHERLAND DISTRICT CHORAL UNION.
Soloist: Miss GERTRUDE CURRAN.
8. Banjo and Mandoline Selection ..... Mendelssohn
THE AUSTRALIAN QUINTETTE.
Miss Padley, Messrs. Smedley Bros., Price, and Goldsmid
9. Solo—"O Rest in the Lord" ("Elijah") ..... Mendelssohn
Master ERNEST CRAWFORD.
10. "The Shepherds' Chorus," from Berlioz's "Childhood of Christ" ..... Berlioz
SUTHERLAND DISTRICT CHORAL UNION.
11. Part Song—"The Dear Little Shamrock" ..... Kucken
Miss MELVILLE'S JUVENILE CHORISTERS.
12. Solo—"The Lost Chord" ..... Sullivan
Miss GERTRUDE CURRAN.
13. Chorus—"How Lovely are the Messengers" ("St. Paul") ..... Mendelssohn
SUTHERLAND DISTRICT CHORAL UNION.
14. Solo—"Tarry," Master ERNEST CRAWFORD.
15. Song—"Calvary," Mr. CARL HASTINGS.
16. Part Song—"Oft in the Stilly Night" ..... Kucken
Mrs. MELVILLE'S JUVENILE CHORISTERS.
17. Musical Monologues, (a) "Only a Bachelor" (Chevalier); (b), "Our Village Concert" (Spurr), Mr. MEL. B. BARKER.
18. Banjo and Mandoline Selection ..... Mendelssohn
THE AUSTRALIAN QUINTETTE.
19. Solo—"The Sailor's Grave" ..... Sullivan
Mr. W. MURDEN.
20. Grand Chorus—"Hallelujah" ("Messiah") ..... Handel
SUTHERLAND DISTRICT CHORAL UNION.
Miss GERTRUDE CURRAN and Miss M. SMALL.
Doors open 7 p.m.
POPULAR PRICES—3s, 2s, and 1s.
Organiser—CHARLES GOODMAN, 8 O'Connell-st, City.
AUSTRALIAN PIANO KINDLY LENT BY BEALE.

The 11.15 p.m. train Sydney to Oatley will be extended to Como and Sutherland.

MANLY. KILMINSTER'S CLARENDON HOTEL.—Delightfully situated, facing ocean. Excellent Accommodation. Special terms for families and permanents. Table d'Hote daily and Sundays. Tel., 3.

COOGEE Aquarium, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, Dancing as usual from 12 till 10. Adm. 1s.

PALACE.
DIRECTION OF EDWIN GEACH.
Manager ..... Mr. GEORGE MARLOW.
"A MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR."
"A Treat for the Little Ones."
TO-MORROW, BOXING DAY, AT 2. TO-MORROW
TO-MORROW. SYDNEY'S GREATEST HOLIDAY ATTRACTION. TO-MORROW.
THE YOUNGSTER'S CHRISTMAS TREAT.
PANTOMIME OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE, ROBINSON CRUSOE.
Which will be presented daily at Matinees Only.
PROLOGUE ..... The Abode of Davy Jones at the Bottom of the Deep Blue Sea.
ACT I.
Scene 1 ..... The Port of Hull.
THE GRAND "AL FRESCO BALLET."
Scene 2 ..... Between Decks of the "Saucy Sal."
Scene 3 ..... On Deck of the "Saucy Sal."
Introducing Marvellous Mechanical Effects.
The Sinking of the "Saucy Sal"
(In full view of the audience),
Crusoe on the Raft.
ACT II.
Scene 1 ..... The Abode of Fairy Pearl Queen.
THE DAINTY PEARL BALLET.
Scene 2 ..... On the Seashore.
Crusoe Finds a Footstep and Friday.
Scene 3 ..... Crusoe's Dwelling.
Friday Makes a Pie and Receives Visitors.
All the Party Arrive—As do the Savages.
Crusoe to the Rescue.
Scene 4 ..... By the Seaside; a View of the Bay.
Friday to the Rescue. Ha! Ha!
Scene 5 ..... King Jumbo's Magnificent Home.
Captain Thomas J. De Smythe and his British Tars Rescue Everybody.
ACT III.
Scene 1 ..... Robinson Crusoe's Magnificent Palace.
Everybody Married, Everybody Happy.
THE GRAND HARLEQUINADE.
Clown .. Albert Smith Harlequina .. Ettie Hope
Policeman, George Smith Columbine .. Doris Bible
Pantaloon, Willie Keegan
Introducing the Great
BURNS-JOHNSON FIGHT.
Burns ..... Little Willie.
Johnson ..... Eric Smedley.
2/, 1/, 1/. CHILDREN HALF-PRICE TO ALL PARTS. 1/, 2/, 3/
Children Booking Fee, 6d extra. Plan at the White Rose.

PALACE.
BOXING NIGHT, TO-MORROW, BOXING NIGHT.
BOXING NIGHT, BOXING NIGHT.
BOXING NIGHT SAT., at 7.50. BOXING NIGHT.
FIRST PERFORMANCE IN SYDNEY OF EDWIN GEACH'S
Premier Dramatic Company, in
THE WOMAN PAYS.
SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND INCIDENTS.
ACT I.—Scene 1, Sedgecliffe Bay and Langford Manor. "She shall never repent her choice." Scene 2, Langford Lane—A Queer Courtship. Scene 3, Langford Sydney by the Waterfall. THE WOMAN BARGAINS.
ACT II.—Scene 1, The Old Dolphin, Sedgecliffe Bay—"Choice Game." Scene 2, Windcombe Asylum—A Vile Plot. Scene 3, Deck of S.S Neptune—The Storm The Wreck. Scene 4, The Open Ocean—The Castaways. THE WOMAN BUYS.
ACT III.—Scene 1, Langford Manor. "My Lass, My Nell." Scene 2, The Ante-room at Manor—Facing the Lion in his Den. Scene 3, Accident Ward at Cottage Hospital—"There'll be no Wedding to-day." Scene 4, Sedgecliffe Church—That Woman's Husband. THE WOMAN RECEIVES.
ACT IV.—Scene 1, the Tap Room of the Debt in Bad Bargain. Scene 2, Drawing-room, Langford Manor—"It was you, then, that ruined my Life." THE WOMAN PAYS.
The Rage of England and America To-day.
YOU'LL REPENT IF YOU MARRY, and
YOU'LL REPENT IF YOU DON'T.
Box Plan at Nicholson's now open daily.
Prices: 3s, 2s, 1s. Booking Fee, 1s extra.
Box Plans for the Pantomime and "The Woman Pays" at the White Rose all day Saturday.

TO-NIGHT, T